This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

SA 2637.98

FROM THE BEQUEST
OF THE
HON. WILLIAM PRESCOTT
OF BOSTON.
RECEIVED MARCH 1ST
MDCCCXLV.

THE BEQUEST
OF THE
LIAM PRESCOTT
OF BOSTON.
VED MAY 6TH 1ST
DCCCXLV.

MEDICAL

AND

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS,

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

MEDICAL

AND

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS,

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

BY

JOHN WILLIAMSON, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH,
FORMERLY SURGEON TO THE CAITHNESS HIGHLANDERS,
AND LATE OF SPANISH TOWN, JAMAICA.

VOL. II.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY ALEX. SMELLIE,
Printer to the University,
FOR THE AUTHOR; AND SOLD BY OLIPHANT, WAUGH AND INNES, AND
A. M'KAY, EDINBURGH; AND J. HARDING, ST. JAMES'S STREET,
AND J. CALLOW, CROWN-COURT, SOHO, LONDON.

1817.

SA2637.98

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

When I reflect on the early concern for my prosperity with which you honoured me, and that your friendship has ever since been kindly rendered, to forward my pursuits in life, it is an infinite gratification to me, to be permitted to bring forward this volume under the sanction of your name.

Its avowed intention being to meliorate the condition of Negroes in our West India Colonies, I flatter myself that such objects will prove acceptable to a Gentleman who has so successfully dedicated his life to the welfare and improvement of these kingdoms.

That services of such experimental advantage, public and private, may meet their due reward from the empire; and that you, and your family, may enjoy every happiness, is the unceasing wish of,

SIR,

Your grateful and obedient servant,

JOHN WILLIAMSON.

MEDICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS

OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

January 1808.—North breezes, as usual, continued that month, and light rains.

The commencement of the year had been ushered in attended by circumstances extremely depressing. The mortality among negroes by the epidemic catarrh or influenza was deplorable.

That its prevalence should occur at a time when negroes have their anniversary of excess and debauchery, is additionally unfortunate; because their imprudence has been such as to conceal the approaches of disease, and to indulge in their propensities, till it had so far overpowered them, that medical aid could no longer avail them.

Mr L.'s case was under observation in August last. Since that time, he unfortunately lost his wife, and had fallen into a state of nervous irritability, complicated with bilious affections. A quotidian intermittent reduced him extremely; and he imagined that, if not removed from his own house, the scene of Mrs L.'s dissolution, he had no chance of recovery.

An impression had been forming in Mr L.'s mind that he would not live much longer. It is not less true than astonishing, that, on general subjects, a reasonable man, a relation of his, dwelt on this probability with considerable confidence. He said, Mr L.'s family had been short lived,—the eldest in his recollection had not exceeded thirty,—he was now the oldest existing, and about twenty-eight.

Mr L. it was to be feared, from these circumstances having some weight with him before, had acquired additional force on account of his late loss,—a train of inconsistent ideas as to the dangerous nature of his complaints were eagerly formed.

It was adviseable to remove him to a situation where he would not have an opportunity of being alone, and where a more consistent inclination would be formed to think favourably of his own condition.

The change of situation, that conduct calculated to remove his melancholic and desponding state of mind, had excellent consequences in a few weeks; and he was restored to the world. He got soon stout; and, as his duties led him abroad often, I hinted to him the

propriety of losing blood, at whatever time he felt severe headache or fever attack him.

At a hot season of the year 1811, he went to St James's parish, on a visit to his friends, and was suddenly taken ill. He retired to his bed-room, as was supposed, for common reasons; and was found, soon after, lying in an apoplectic fit, from which he never recovered.

It has been observed, in course of these memorandums, that extreme depression of mind, from misfortune, commonly produces the most serious consequences to health, and will often bring its victim to a premature grave.

A friend of ours, of considerable standing in the country, had been rather fortunate at first outset, and formed a particular friendship for a gentleman who possessed an estate in the island.

On the death of the latter, he was left executor and trustee for all his concerns, and took possession of them. The estate, in particular, required considerable outlays to keep up its value; and our friend freely bestowed his own property to these purposes, in perfect confidence that he would be repaid before it could be taken out of his hands. After a considerable number of years going on, the estate was made more valuable, but produce now at a very low ebb, by a decree of Chancery, he was required to surrender possession to prior creditors, and a receiver was appointed.

After such an event, so destructive to all he had been earning for a number of years, now advanced in life,

MEDICAL

AND

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS,

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

MEDICAL

AND

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS,

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

BY

JOHN WILLIAMSON, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH,
FORMERLY SURGEON TO THE CAITHNESS HIGHLANDERS,
AND LATE OF SPANISH TOWN, JAMAICA.

VOL. II.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY ALEX. SMELLIE,
Printer to the University,
FOR THE AUTHOR; AND SOLD BY OLIPHANT, WAUGH AND INNES, AND
A. M'KAY, EDINBURGH; AND J. HARDING, ST. JAMES'S STREET,
AND J. CALLOW, CROWN-COURT, SOHO, LONDON.

1817.

where *phthisis pulmonalis* was combined with fistula *in ano*. Several changes of a favourable and opposite nature had been observed for several months past, without giving us any well founded reasons to expect recovery. Phthisis is formidable in that, as well as in an European climate; and would be aggravated by going there. Fistulas in that country, when deep, are never cured in a relaxed state of constitution; and require an atonic condition of the system to be removed; which can only be effected by repairing to Europe.

Indications so opposite afforded little chance of recovery.

Miss T. a young girl, supposed to be nine or ten years of age, got remittent fever, which continued to the eleventh day. It then degenerated into an intermitting form, with a paroxysm every twenty-four hours. With due attention to evacuants, an opiate was generally given about half an hour before the expected paroxysm; bark seemed to have no power over it. In spite of our best exertions to shorten its progress, it continued for about a month, and then went off spontaneously. It was observed, about that time, that she made a more rapid growth than before; and we were justified in conceiving that that state of her system had been the true cause of fever.

The medical profession in Jamaica, particulary for plantations, in general, is not placed on that system of respectability and independence which is due to it. There are few things connected with Jamaica which appear to me to be more in want of radical reform,

with a view to our profession being better rewarded for their labours, and that the West Indies may, in many respects, profit by that improvement.

It is believed that plantation doctors, in many parts of the interior, do not make good horse-hire for the number of miles they ride, on an average, daily.

While professional duties on estates are so objectionable as now conducted, and though in the towns they are more respectably situated, I conceive that the mode of charging is most unsatisfactory, and cannot be reconciled to an honourable mind.

May.—Rains had been partial during the month; heat much increased, and sea breezes more regular; lightning severe; and struck the house of Mr Ramsay of that town. From ten to twelve noon, thermometer stood from eighty-six to eighty-nine degrees. From twelve to two P. M. about ninety-one degrees.

The overpowering effects of heat seemed to be the principle source of disease that month. Increased accumulations of bile, attended by dullness, and inability to bring the mind and body to their usual exercises, were particularly observed.

The case of a boy, in whom every tie of affection engaged me, called for that professional attention during the month, which it is better to trust to a friend, when the mind is overwhelmed by every apprehension which the loss of an engaging youth would naturally involve a parent in.

D. ——, about four and a half years, was seized

with usual symptoms of remittent, and irritability of stomach; bowels were also extremely irregular; his motions appeared to be ill digested, hot and fœtid; bilious, and mixed with scibulæ. He was a good deal comatose, but disturbed, and started frequently. When he awoke, he seemed to be confused.

Third day of fever, his bowels were very irregular, and suggested the necessity of physic. Calomel was freely combined with other laxatives; but, though inconsiderably increased doses to what he would require on common occasions, their effects were incomplete, and motions discovered an extreme disposition to disease. Fever continued at night; startings, and some delirium. He called for some accommodation in the night; much agitated; and, before we could procure it, he was convulsed; insensible; a changed object indeed. In that state he continued for more than two hours, from one fit to another.

Before an assafœtida enema was procured, he had a very large motion. The fit did not go off; it abated, and returned with violence. A purgative enema was then administered, and retained for some time, when a large motion came off, with a lively worm of the teres kind. The warm bath was administering at the same time; and, soon after he passed the worm, he fell into a tranquil sleep, under which he seemed to enjoy comfort. That expression of countenance to which we had been so often accustomed, began to resume its usual appearance; and, after a couple of hours rest, he again recognised those in anxious attendance on him.

Our hopes were cherished by so favourable a change, when we had so little reason at one time to look for it. In the progress of his fever, we had still feared irritation and fits from worms. Our treatment was directed to remove them; but though mercurial and other vermifuges were given, to that extent which prudence would allow, a recurrence of fits came on the following day. More worms were subsequently passed. Fever went on to the ninth day; and he then made a tolerable recovery.

The nature of these fits became a subject of great anxiety to me; and I am disposed to believe that an irritable state of his bowels was the true cause. Irregular motions, and the formation of worms in such circumstances, seemed to account for them. He had fits about two years before, evidently proceeding from the state of his bowels; but it is expedient to adopt those measures calculated to obviate the repetition of them; for they might become constitutional by frequent recurrence.

The above case is one of moment to parents. It is hoped that any trespass in its detail will be looked on with indulgence.

A free brown lady, Miss W. was one of those abominable cases of ebriety, where her senses became much impaired. It is to be lamented; for in her station she was charitable and kind-hearted. Her character, previous to that course of degradation she had fallen into, was marked by many circumstances extremely creditable.

Her relatives made an application to the Grand Court to have her declared incapable of the conduct of her own affairs, and to procure themselves an appointment to superintend them. Medical evidence was here material. The designing purposes of her friends were to secure her property, and to get her confined. It was impossible for the medical attendants to go further, than to say that, in the moments of ebriety, she was unfit for business. Her relatives wished us to say more; but that could not be done; and their petition was consequently rejected.

The poor woman felt indignant, when she heard what her friends intended to accomplish; and, in perfect possession of her reason, willed to others all the property she possessed.

Mr H.'s *William Dorman* was a case of pleurisy, accompanied by symptoms of unusual severity. In the commencement of attack, he had been neglected; and those decided measures were not admissible, which, at an earlier period, might have secured him from danger. About the tenth day of the disease, he was so extremely ill, as to afford scarcely a hope of his doing well. His pulse was small, frequent, and irregular; sense of suffocation came on when he attempted to lie down in his bed; breathing stertorous, and a garrulous noise from secretions, which it would appear he could not relieve the *bronchiæ* from. His case seemed altogether unpromising; and additionally so, on account of reasons we had to believe that effusion had taken place in the lungs.

In these circumstances, the man himself called loudly for a vomit, persevered in requesting it; and, as his case was at any rate desperate, a dose of ipecacuanha, sufficient for the purpose he desired, was given to him. After its full effect, he felt better. We availed ourselves of such an extraordinary circumstance; and seconded those indications which now appeared necessary.

The distressed circumstances of the island had extended to every class of persons in it. Produce was at an extremely low ebb, coffee in particular; and that industrious description of persons, who settled in the woods to raise that commodity, had the prospect of ruin before them. Their speculations were entered on by credit; and the produce raised was worth nothing.

The more opulent in the country would do well to assist so useful a class of inhabitants; but they seemed to be devoted to a fate unsuitable to that industry so perseveringly followed up. And our white population, upon which the safety of the island so much depends, would be probably reduced. Indeed, as matters were, adventurers from Europe had a sorry prospect before them.

June.—Any rain we had during the month was trifling, and contributed imperfectly to the progress of vegetation: towards the interior they had been abundant; and though sea-breezes were acceptable, their power had a tendency to carry away those clouds which would otherwise pour down on our parched fields.

Some cases of remittent occurred; but they were few, and presented nothing of consequence, with the exception of Mr G.'s.

That gentleman, whose illness has been introduced before (*vide* vol. i. p. 246), had undergone a great deal of general uneasiness for some days, which should have warned him that febrile diathesis existed in the system. An attack of it came on in the evening. Shooting pains of his head became particularly severe. In a few hours he was observed to be incoherent; upon which I was sent for. His headache was particularly troublesome; and he described it to be an acute pain stretching in every direction, with little remission, through it. Skin hot and dry, sense of fullness at stomach, and he had been costive.

Mr G. was of an active enterprising disposition, of a habit rather spare. In former illnesses, under my care, his head was particularly affected; and, after undergoing the usual course of remittent on a former occasion, that part of the complaint was troublesome. He was not so attentive to the care of his health as he should have been.

Brisk mercurial purging pills were commenced with as little delay as possible. For two hours he was very uneasy, complaining particularly of his head. His feet were bathed in warm water with salt in it; and a vein was opened in his arm, from which we got from ten to twelve ounces of blood. Syncope was then approaching; but he had immediate abatement of uneasiness. When his pills began to give him pain, his

breathing was often interrupted, obliging him in general to sit up in bed. He described the greatest uneasiness, by saying, that he felt as if pins were pricking him in the left side; and they seemed so severe as to be supported with difficulty. Some warm water was directed to be drank; and, in about three quarters of an hour, he began to vomit. A great quantity of undigested food was thrown up, followed by bile of a viscid and acrid nature. That state continued for some time; he slept after; but in the morning no motions were produced. A senna infusion, with kali tartarisat. was prescribed; and, as his headache continued in a slight degree, a blister was placed between his shoulders. In the forenoon, pills and infusion operated well; motions were extremely bilious, of a hot and feverish nature; blister had risen in the evening; and his head was much better. Took several doses of bark powder in decoction, which he retained.

Third day.—Had a good night, free from fever; continued bark and laxatives *pro re nata.*

Fourth day.—A little feverish in the night, but it seemed to be going off; continued the laxative infusion when necessary. In the evening better, and taking bark.

Fifth day.—Continued better.

Sixth day.—Took bark freely: in each dose about six grains of jalap, to keep his bowels in an open state.

Continued to recover.

Small doses of jalap in bark were peculiarly adapted to that end for which they were given on the sixth day.

Any objections that may be imagined against this medicine with bark will be done away by that best of tests, *experience.*

In Mr G.'s former illnesses, a succession of boils on different parts of his body was found extremely troublesome, and kept him in an imperfect state of recovery for a long time after. It is presumed that the early bleeding, in his late illness, contributed in a material degree to prevent their recurrence.

July.—About the twentieth of the month, after a succession of dry weather, truly distressing, we got plentiful rains. A most acceptable change took place in consequence; and the planter looked forward with better hopes for the usual rewards of his labour.

Such an agreeable change of weather, at a season when health accompanied moisture, and vegetation is in its most active stages, we had no reason to anticipate the prevalence of disease. One case of malignant fever occurred, fatal in its event; and, in the recently arrived European, when attacked by sickness, it frequently proved fatal.

Mrs M.'s *Flora* had been seriously affected with a disposition to general dropsy. As a tonic, she was taking *canella alba*, which we procured from the woods. After exhausting a quantity we had on hand, and which had probably been in store for many years, a fresh stock was procured. Powders were sent to her, as before, without making any change in the quantity of each. In about an hour after taking the first dose, severe vomit-

ing was produced; its operation extended soon after to the bowels, with considerable violence; her urine was also considerably increased. It was at first apprehended that she had taken poison by mistake; but the circumstance was better explained, by the more powerful effects of recently collected canella, of much superior strength to that we had formerly.

The patient was a good deal exhausted by its effects; yet it is but fair to conclude her case by mentioning, that to that dose she owed a complete recovery, due attention having been paid to good diet.

Mrs ——'s case of warty cancer over the eye, which was making considerable progress, was removed by excision. At the first dressing, it was particularly observed that the lint could scarcely be detached from the sore; probably a peculiarity attending cancerous surfaces.

Mr —— appeared to be about twenty-two, of a vigorous habit of body, not plethoric, had arrived about two weeks before from Europe.

7th.—Was attacked with the usual symptoms of pyrexia, to which new comers are liable, in an excessively hot time of the year. He complained of his head particularly, and took a dose of salts that morning.

8th.—My attendance was first called upon; and I found him complaining still of headache, fullness in his eyes, considerable distension of its blood vessels; pulse quicker, and fuller than natural; skin hot and dry; excessive thirst; tongue white and clammy; heaviness and pain about the epigastrium; slight vomiting.

Salts operated, but not to a desirable extent.

He was immediately put on a course, by which calomel, combined with purgatives, would operate briskly. Calomel was then introduced, with a view to affect the system, and mercurial ointment by friction. Blistering and other indications were likewise attended to.

9*th*.—Continued uneasy; said his headache was better; blister rose well; fever abated. He said he was convinced he would not recover.

10*th*.—Fever abated; vomited sometimes, but not with violence; pulse about one hundred, full; it sometimes intermitted.

In the evening, had taken some doses of bark, and retained them.

11*th*.—Stomach more irritable, and vomited a green bilious liquid. Pulse much as before. Countenance expressive of despondency; free of fever; said he had no pain; sighed frequently; eyes had a glassy prominent appearance; skin yellow; bowels open; tongue not so foul as usual; thirst moderate.

12*th*.—Irritability of stomach continued, but no black vomiting; yellowness of skin increased. That desponding disposition had unluckily attended him during his illness; and there now seemed to be depression of every healthy function.

Four P. M.—Found him exceedingly confused; and he was roused with difficulty to take nourishment, or medicine. Pulse extremely languid and irregular; countenance hippocratic. A dreadful expression of

misery was observed in his countenance, but he was not aware of this; the yellow streaks about the ears and neck were described. When he attempted to sit up in bed, it was necessary to lay him down again quickly, as he would otherwise get convulsed. On expressing a desire to raise him to stool, he got into a fit; and, though immediately put to bed, did not recover it. Some diluted blood was discharged from the nose; and he sunk.

The above is a case of considerable malignancy, consisting of one paroxysm of fever, and terminating with many of those distinguishing symptoms which characterise what is vulgarly termed yellow fever.

A decided presentiment he had encouraged of his dissolution was a formidable circumstance against him; and its operation must have weighed greatly against those hopes which might be cherished in an opposite disposition of the mind.

Very important intelligence had arrived from Europe, that the French ruler has been opposed, with great spirit, in Spain and Portugal; and a momentous change seemed to be dawning on us, after vicissitudes which had thrown a gloom over our beloved country for many years.

August.—Rains had been very abundant in that month, and we had more temperate weather. Norths prevailed rather more than usual at that time of the year.

Fevers occurred, but in few instances; and it is

comfortable to be able to add, that none terminated fatally.

Catarrhal affections, among children, had been rather frequent.

Mrs ——— had a gum boil, and a loose tooth; the latter was extracted when the boil had discharged itself. Of an hysterical constitution, she got into fits; her strength was considerably exhausted; and she did not recover for several days.

Mr L.'s child. A pea stuck up the nose, and so firmly fixed itself, that its restlessness, crying, &c. would not allow us to do more, by means of a scoop, than to move it, without getting it away. In about three days after, it came away unobserved. These accidents are troublesome, and cause an anxiety often inexcusable; but it has been stated to me positively, that a child retained a pea so long, that it commenced vegetation, and gave great pain. It was removed, after much resistance made by the child; but gave considerable uneasiness to the parents.

In the case of Mr K. he had undergone a great proportion of bad health, and returned lately from England, where he had been, with a view to its recovery.

He was of a gouty constitution, exceedingly relaxed, and his bowels often affected in a way similar to dry belly-ache; for which a remedy had been liberally given to us from the parish of St Ann's; but I do not feel myself at liberty to declare what its component parts are, though I am satisfied, when these remarks reach

the island, any restriction, which may be more imaginary than real, will be removed, and an opportunity will be taken then to supply the deficiency which the case labours under.

A young Creole, educated in England, got fever. It went through a progress of six days, and he got well.

In a case of ardent fever, of a young man from Europe, sponging the body with vinegar and water was of great service. Mercury also affected his gums.

September.—Some considerable falls of rain had taken place; and a humid state of the atmosphere consequently prevailed.

Vegetation on the decline, from causes peculiar to the season of the year. Decomposition of animal and vegetable matter, and north winds, prove in general a source of bad health.

Fevers, of a typhous description, were protracted to the fourteenth and sixteenth day.

Miss ———, a brown lady, died of excessive hard drinking,—neglected, despised, and only inquired after, to seize on her property.

A child, under sore throat, of putrid tendency, was accustomed, in health, to excessive indulgencies, and would neither permit the application of any remedy to her throat, or take any medicine whatever, though every solicitation, kindness, and alternate threats, were used, but all to no purpose. The child died without having a chance given to it. Parents have thus a fatal

lesson read to them, to be watchful to inculcate an obedient disposition in children.

In the cases of typhus and sore throats we had during the month, no other proved fatal; and nothing of moment occurred to produce details here.

October.—Had heavy rains during the month; temperature extremely variable; heat, at times, oppressive; damp colds occasionally, with north winds. In the fall of the year, we seldom experienced such unhealthy kind of weather.

Fevers of various description, malignant and putrid sore throats, prevailed to a great extent, adding a contagious property to their usual character. In the army, contagious typhus was particularly destructive, and made dreadful havoc among the troops.

Among women and children, that contagious character had been confined, where they were put up in crowded dirty apartments; and any fever, almost in such circumstances, would degenerate into a contagious disease.

Mr M.'s was one of those cases which discovered the low type; and extended to the fifteenth day, before an intermission could be pronounced fully established; and then a total deafness and sillyness seemed to leave him in a miserable situation. His appetite was returning; and he had many other symptoms constituting convalescence. This was, however, an unhappy prospect for a young man; and it was incumbent to do something to remove so great a calamity.

Attention was given generally to other circumstances which might co-operate towards the removal of these affections. His ears were syringed regularly; liniments with camphor rubbed round them; got his head shaved, washed with an infusion of capsicum, and a large blister applied over it, extending to nape of the neck, and to each ear.

When it might be supposed its action had commenced, he fell into a more comfortable kind of sleep than he had experienced before; and, unless when roused, to take nourishment, or to dress the blisters, he slept about thirty-six hours. He awakened in possession of his senses; but the mental powers were not to be exerted. He first expressed a full sense of his debility (which may be assumed as a part of the character of convalescence); and his hearing seemed to be quite restored.

In the course of his illness, it is right to remark the excellent effects of bark enemas, in counteracting that dangerous excess of debility which accompanied the case. In administering them, we can also introduce opium, without having reason to fear those unpleasant subsequent effects which attend its being taken by the stomach.

In Mrs A.'s case, she got fever, which seemed to have a great deal of the typhus character. She was upwards of sixty, and got through it with considerable difficulty. She had two daughters. One of them got fever of the same description; the other was also laid up with it successively; and as they were kept pretty com-

fortable in well ventilated chambers, the contagious property of this fever seemed to be fully established.

Mr ———, on Cumberland penn, was in the habit of administering medicine to himself without advice. He got fever; and continued to confide in his own skill. He was riding about with a friend in the morning, unfit to be out of bed, and requiring professional assistance. In the evening he was no more.

November.—Heavy rains had been frequent throughout the month; cold, damp, north winds, and very rarely any sea breezes.

The extensive prevalence of disease which we met with that month, suggested the propriety of resorting to the use of tincture of bark in Madeira wine, with the view of resisting such powerful predisposing sources. About two tea-spoonfuls in an ounce of Madeira, early every morning and at noon, seemed to be useful.

Several instances occurred of disease, in consequence of worms in the stomach and intestines; one of which defied the power of every medicine; and she died in fits. On opening her body, the worms were found in a lively state in the small guts.

Remittent fevers more commonly terminated on the seventh or ninth day; but they sometimes degenerated into intermittents.

Mr ——, a member of our colonial assembly, exceeding forty, of considerable standing, got remittent fever, where immense secretions of acrid bile were discharged by vomit and stool. Irritability of his stomach was

extremely distressing. Many remedies were tried, after obtaining plentiful evacuations by stool, to compose the stomach, without much effect. On the fourth day, a blister was applied to it. On the fifth, I recommended that my friend Dr Skene should be called in. The treatment was continued, but with an exacerbation of fever. In the evening, retching returned with great severity. Dr S. recommended the patient to take repeated draughts of tepid water, that he might, as he said, ascertain the contents of his stomach. Little nausea ensued; but, instead of vomiting, it certainly composed the stomach; for it operated by stool as a gentle cathartic would do, assisted by calomel probably remaining in the bowels. After that time his case went on well. Between the eighth and ninth day, a favourable crisis was observed.

Mr O.'s was one of those cases, where the man, in the performance of his duty, was much exposed to the sun, to wet, and cold. At an advanced stage of fever, which seemed to have been inflammatory, he called for medical assistance. He was considerably exhausted, with sense of great heaviness and oppression under the *cartilago en si formis*. His bowels were opened as expeditiously as possible, by the combined effects of mercurial purges and infusion of senna. The treatment was afterwards followed up by effervescing mixture, James's powder, and the usual course of medicine to extinguish fever; and he got well.

Mr H.'s was one of those which may be termed the malignant, or yellow fever. The first paroxysm conti-

nued for nearly three days; the low stage succeeded it, and continued until the sixth day. His system was roused by stimulants of the most powerful kind; giving capsicum by the stomach, brandy, wine, &c.; blistering successively different parts of the body; nourishing enemas were administered, adding brandy, camphor, opium, &c. to them. The case degenerated afterwards into a quotidian intermittent; but he eventually got perfectly well.

Whether mercury had any influence in the favourable event of Mr H.'s case, it would be venturing too much to assume a claim to it decidedly. A good deal was given internally, and ten drams ointment by friction. The gums were not touched; but it may be presumed that so great a quantity as about two hundred and fifty grains, introduced by the stomach, had some effect favourable to the event we so little expected.

In Master *James*, adopted by Misses L. the child had a dyspeptic aspect, and seemed to have some disease of the mesenteric glands. Worm medicines were used with effect in expelling them; but the *tinctura aloë comp. cum myrrha*, twelve drops early every morning, and at noon, were of great service in restoring a healthy condition of the *primæ viæ*.

Mr G. got fever, which continued a week, but without any symptoms to bring him to a sense of danger. He, therefore, yielded little to those restrictions which were delivered to him; and he has been so fortunate as to get well.

December.—Had colder weather that month; but in other respects as in November; and diseases much the same.

A negro woman, *Jacoba*, the property of Mr Vidal, had every symptom of chlorosis, agreeing in so many circumstances with the *mal de estomac*. Her cataminia had been suppressed for several months. In addition to excellent diet, so humanely and liberally bestowed on negroes under disease, the sulphate of iron, gum assafœtida, and tincture of melampodium, or black hellebore, were administered. She continued a course, of which these formed the most material, for about six weeks, when she began to recover a more healthy appearance; and soon after her menstrual discharge came on. The tincture of melampodium contributed materially to a change so favourable.

Mr K.'s was an unfortunate case of yellow fever in a new comer, which had the character of the malignant causus, or epidemic. It terminated fatally on the seventh day.

Mr ——'s son, a boy of three years of age, got *cynanche maligna*, or putrid sore throat; but, by compliance with that treatment which was prescribed, he got well. These consisted principally of an emetic at as early a stage as possible, mercurial purgatives, the bark in wine or brandy, capsicum gargle, improved by adding muriatic acid to it.

Inflammatory sore throats also occurred in Mrs De C.'s daughter R. of a spare delicate habit of body. She was treated by blistering, mercurial and antimo-

nial purges, gargles of a mild acescent nature; and she got well.

January 1809.—For the first two weeks of the month there were abundant rains; after that, dry weather. Mornings and evenings extremely cool; very warm in the day time; north winds generally prevailed.

Diseases of the month had been of a similar description to those of the two past, November and December.

Some cases of intermittent had been extremely unyielding. The purer air of Port-Henderson, where they have a little sea-breeze during the day, was of no use in a lady's case; bark seemed to have no efficacy whatever; and, though a harsher remedy, the diligent use of Angustura powder in colomba infusion was given to her; under which she improved exceedingly, and got well.

Miss B.'s *Helena*, a negro girl, from five to six years of age, got the putrid ulcerated sore throat, which was so rapid and determined in its progress, that it did not yield in the slightest degree to any remedy. The medicines were attentively prescribed, and as readily taken by the poor girl. An effort was made to touch the system by mercury; but all our exertions failed; and she died on the third day from that on which the disease was discovered.

A case of fever in M. a very fine boy of five years of age, about two years from Europe, occurred, where

he was permitted to become costive. At such a season of predisposition to disease, it is believed that scarcely any age is exempted. A severe paroxysm of fever came on; he was extremely flushed; his pulse went with great velocity and fullness, which made me propose bleeding. It was not liked; but immediate measures were taken to have his bowels freely opened; and, with all possible expedition, he was put in a warm bath; enemas were often administered, and such remedies as would promote perspiration, without impeding the operation of laxatives. In course of two hours we succeeded in procuring a remission from fever; the flushing of his countenance subsided; but, in a boy of that age, it is astonishing how much medicine he had taken before it operated. Fever took the usual course, of about nine days, before he got intermission.

Though Master M.'s case (the above) did not assume the character of malignant endemic, it was one of those blended instances of remittent with the malignant, which shews that, at an early period of life, in going to that country, we are not to expect that age to be exempted from diseases peculiar to the climate.

Miss B. a respectable lady of colour, about fifty, had been affected for some time in a manner which we may consider under the head of neurosis. She was, in general, a healthy woman, of little more than desirable corpulency; and, with the exception of occasional slight attacks of rheumatism, had enjoyed a great share of good health. She was of a contented cheerful dispo-

sition, and not by any means a person who would be suspected of encouraging imaginary complaints.

About a year before, complained sometimes of an itchy pricking sensation in various parts of her body; she could see a tremulous motion in the part where that sensation was felt, as if an animal moved, and pinched her. From one part of her body, thus affected, it moved; and she felt the same sensation instantly at a part the most remote. It had been more troublesome during the night, disturbed her rest, and she was disposed, from her feelings, to believe, that if she could lay hold of the animal of such rapid transition from one part to another, she would squeeze it to death, and thus get rid of her complaint.

In looking over Dr Whyte's publication on nervous diseases, there are described a variety of symptoms corresponding with Miss B.'s complaint.

After the most careful inquiry as to the nature of her disease, it was impossible to imagine that our art could be almost of any other use than to regulate the state of her bowels better, as she was rather disposed to costiveness, and to prescribe some tonics to prevent a disposition to debility.

In February, she experienced considerable relief from the occasional use of the compound aloetic tincture (formerly *elixir proprietatis*). She also took oxyde of iron, in pills, with extract of gentian, and sometimes aromatic tincture.

In March, on the whole, better.

In October, though she had not been free of complaint, she experienced considerable alleviation of uneasiness, from remedies adapted to keep up a regular state of her bowels, and occasional use of tonics. In course of the night, she lost all recollection, her vision impaired, and the left side considerably deprived of feeling, extending to the arm of the same side.

She had a mustard vomit administered on my arrival; her bowels were opened freely. Mustard seed was taken in the usual manner, and blisters applied to different parts of her body.

In November, she was considerably relieved.

October 1810.—She had returns of that uneasiness, flying about, and attacking distant parts of her body, but with less severity. Some derangement of the *primæ viæ* was to be removed; she complained of prostration of strength, disposition to be comatose, her pulse slow and feeble; but she got a good deal better, by pursuing the indications of treatment formerly put down.

About the end of the year, she got a confirmed paralytic affection of the side; and died in the course of two or three days.

Nervous diseases, which some are pleased to call *hypochondriasis* indiscriminately, demand our humane consideration, as much as any other to which our frail systems are liable. If we would remark their commencement, and search into their sources, it is consolatory to know that we have, in the *materia medica* at

least, many articles which would be of material use in these complaints. We will often find what are considered nervous, or hypochondriac, affections, proceeding from organic diseases which it is much within our power to cure perfectly. Let us then acquit ourselves of that important charge we have to perform, and reflect seriously before we aggravate distress.

February.—Scarcely any rain had fallen that month. The progress of vegetation, so beautifully displaying itself, with moist weather, at that season, was altogether suppressed, unless on the banks of rivers, or near ponds, from whence plants derive so much of their vigour.

After a very unhealthy fall of the year, it is pleasing to be able to say that the month had been healthy, more so than any other for six months before.

March.—Experienced unpleasant effects from dry and hot weather, unrefreshing breezes, suppressed vegetation, and scarcity of provisions to negroes. Within the few former days we had partial rains; and appearances afforded reason to expect that we should have more.

Several cases of fever occurred. Towards the interior, some of malignant epidemic pleurisy appeared; and I was sorry to find that, at my former residence, Williamsfield estate, many negroes had been lost by it.

Romeo, a negro lad, belonging to Williamsfield, was sent from the estate, on account of its general fatality while they remained there, to the penn near Spanish

Town. Mr Graham called, and immediately drove me out to see him. He appeared in such a dangerous state, that I had scarcely a hope remaining of his recovery. His breathing was interrupted and stertorous; a tremulous frequent pulse, subsultus, threatening suffocation when he lay down, comatoseness, immense distention of the alæ of the nose. A blister was immediately put to his breast, a camphorated julap, with assafœtida and opium pills, stimulating cataplasms to his feet, &c. Calomel was given very freely with squills, and gum ammoniac in pill. In two days he was much better; and eventually recovered.

Mr ——— sent for me under circumstances of imaginary disease, which proved extremely distressing. He told an artful story, which inclined me to commiserate his situation very much. On approaching to examine his pulse, and to see the state of his tongue, a fiery fætor of new rum met me; and it was evident that, though he stated his complaints with great cunning and address, by no means uncommon in such characters, all his grievances, mental and bodily, had their source in excessive drinking. The house-servant confirmed my belief. He carried on a miserable course of life, longer than most men, on account of possessing considerable strength of constitution; but it at length brought a disgraceful termination to existence.

Measles appeared that month, the only time I had seen them since my arrival in the country.

Miss ———'s was a case of ulcerated sore throat, with disposition to putrescency, but in a slight degree

only. It terminated favourably in about a week, by that course of remedies formerly advised.

Mrs M. had a large ulcer on her leg for many years, which had not been healed up, for very good reasons; but, at her advanced age, about seventy-five, it had still a scorbutic appearance; and she indulged in a wish to heal it up. The consequence had already appeared, in a severe asthma, which it was to be feared would bear hard upon her.

April.—With very fine rains during that month, vegetation was remarkable vigorous; heat increased; and there was a greater uniformity of temperature, night and day, than for some time before.

It often happens, in that country, that rains are extremely partial; and, on that occasion, though we had an abundant supply, towards Mr Hanson's and the Governor's penn, in Salt Ponds, they had none.

It has seldom been in my power to remark the healthy state of our community, to that extent which I was enabled to do that month.

In those cases of pleurisy which occurred among negroes, some proved fatal. But where that early assistance was given, so strenuously recommended by professional men, we were uniformly successful in securing their recovery.

May.—With exception of the weather being warmer, and atmosphere peculiarly oppressive, the same kind of weather as the former month.

Vegetation yielded great abundance of pasture for cattle; and promised that profusion of Nature's gifts, which the island always produces with sufficiency of moisture.

An ulcerated sore throat seemed to be epidemic that month, which was sometimes accompanied by inflammatory symptoms; at others, by a disposition to sloughing, which demanded opposite kinds of treatment. These it is unnecessary to mention here, as cases have been under our notice before, which render them obvious.

In the present irregular kind of life which negroes are permitted to lead, they will be constantly exposed to fatal diseases, such as pleurisy; and a serious reduction of our negro population will consequently take place every year. It is said, that in the interior, a great number had been lost.

Mrs M. (noticed in March) had declined very much; and, by the advice of Dr Dancer, was carried to Port-Henderson on a litter. Its air was of no use; and she was soon brought back. She was supported by cocoa-nut water and air for several weeks. Rich broths, it is true, were given by enema for some time; but circumstances would not permit their continuance; and she died at the age of seventy-six.

Europeans who are obliged to reside in Jamaica, particularly if family men, have great hardships to undergo, by being obliged to separate themselves from their family, on considerations connected with health and education; and, on a late occasion, it was necessary,

by such a measure, to subdue a disposition to alarming disease.

My son's constitution was not acquiring that vigorous character which it is the parents duty to provide, if the means be in their power. It was also impressed on my mind, that the disposition to fits might not be removed, unless his system could be invigorated by our native climate.

We had these powerful arguments to oppose against affection, which, if indulged, would bespeak imbecility and want of duty. The alternative, it is scarcely necessary to add, was adopted. We consigned him to the care of that Providence whose wisdom is best calculated to dispose of him, by sending him to Britain: And he possesses a vigour of body in consequence, which he had no chance of acquiring in a tropical climate.

June.—The month had been uniformly dry, and extremely hot. In consequence of abundant rains the former month, vegetation continued vigorous.

The excessive heat of weather was probably the principle source of disease. Some catarrhal cases occurred, but they were of a slight nature. One case of *cynanche trachealis* assumed threatening symptoms.

Mr V.'s son, Robert, was a case of croup, with fever. He was treated by ipecacuanha vomits, sometimes combined with squills, calomel as laxative, and alterative blisters, &c.; and he recovered.

Mr F.'s, a case of fever, in a gentleman of considerable residence there, and who had several sicknesses be-

fore in the island, required my attendance. It was only remarkable for the quantity of medicine necessary to move his bowels. He first commenced with our usual laxative pills, composed of calomel, antimonial powder, and jalap. They failed, after taking four doses. A strong half pint senna infusion, with kali tartariat. was then prescribed; and not until he had taken the whole did he get evacuations of that copious description which a vast accumulation of acrid bile so much required.

The following circumstances occurred as to the bite of a mad dog, that month.

23d.—Mrs C. the wife of R. C. a hair-dresser, in passing through the streets that day, was bit by a mad dog, about the middle and anterior part of the fore arm. It happened about eleven A. M. My assistance was not called for till about five P. M. It had been tied up, but without any application to remove the poison; and no blood had flowed from the part.

That unfortunate woman expected to be confined in childbed. The wound was rather deep, such as a tooth is likely to inflict. It was much among the tendons; and her pregnant state dictated the propriety of keeping her mind as tranquil as possible.

They had allowed six hours to elapse; in which time we may conceive that the mischief had been already effected; though it is supposed that this poison is slow of absorption, and may be deposited on a raw surface for some time before it is received into the system. This,

however, it is suspected, is involved in uncertainty; and the natural inference is, that we had, on the present occasion, to fear that time had been given for absorption in six hours.

The inner part of the wound was fully occupied by lanur caustic. Having previously cleansed it well, over that an arrow-root poultice was placed in the evening; and, on the arm, half a dram mercurial ointment was directed to be rubbed well in every morning and evening.

A negro boy belonging to Mr G. had been bit the same day by the dog about the lower part of the *tendo Achilles*. No excision or any other treatment had been pursued in his case.

August 16th.—Mrs G. could not continue rubbing in, on account of her delivery; and her gums were not sore. She declined taking any more medicine. The wounded part threw out a large core, leaving a fresh clean sore, which soon healed up, and looked like any other part.

At noon, in coming along, Mr G. addressed me, by saying, that the unfortunate man bit was now under hydrophobia. He seemed to be a negro about thirty-five; discovered a great deal of perturbation; but spoke rationally in giving an account of his distressed situation. He attempted to chew bread, and succeeded tolerably; but the powers of deglutition were gone; and he was thrown into convulsive motions before he gave up the attempt. Water could not be swallowed

either, though he appeared to be inclined to take some, and got a little down after several efforts. Very little horror seemed to be yet occasioned by presenting water to him. The part bitten was healed; and he complained of no uneasiness in it: expressed a wish for a powerful emetic. His pulse much about the usual standard of frequency; but it sometimes remitted.

Though I took the liberty to visit that case, it was not under my care; and I was only indulged with the gratification of that distressing curiosity to visit and observe its progress.

17*th*.—Severity of symptoms much increased; countenance, in general, expressed the utmost ferocity. On being presented with some water, the horror which instantly seised on him was dreadfully expressed. His mouth was often opened unnaturally wide, and shut again suddenly. He went on thus, crawling on the ground with great rapidity, uttering sounds like the hollow grumbling bark of a frantic dog. I asked his hand, to ascertain the state of his pulse; the immediate effect of which was an inclination to grant my request; but his disordered mind so overcame him, that there appeared some risk in taking it: for, on my laying hold of the wrist, it might be perceived that an involuntary attempt at violence could not be altogether subdued; and, when he recovered himself, he said affectingly,—"*Mi* "*good massa, me beg your pardon; sickness more than* "*me.*" I left him, after recommending the attendants to alleviate his distresses by every possible tenderness.

18*th.*—Died about two P. M.—a dreadful example of that destructive disease.

Mrs C. though unaware of the above unlucky case, had a two grain calomel pill every second night.

September 1*st.*—The obvious consequences of avowing the above case to her were of such magnitude, that every precaution was taken to prevent it. She got her child inoculated for *variolæ*; and, under an impression successfully made on her own mind, that certain preparative medicines were necessary on her part as a nurse, we got some calomel, combined with opium, introduced. That persuasion could not be long of any weight; and she positively refused to take any more. An unpleasant task was imposed on me; but conceiving that some security might be afforded by a mercurial course continued, to affect the gums, it became my duty to express an earnest desire that, for her own sake, she would allow me to direct it; taking the liberty at the same time to say, her safety would be thus put beyond any doubt. She submitted to my desire with more cheerfulness than expected. She took the blue pill morning and evening; and, by the tenth day of the month, ptyalism was fully established.

30*th.*—Gums still sore; but getting well.

January 1. 1810.—Continued in good health.

April 1812.—Had no attack of disease; being a period of nearly three years from the time she was bit.

July.—Had no rain that month, and experienced all

those disadvantages which belong to a continuance of dry weather in the country.

In a case of teething, the infant was at the same time under small-pox fever, when fits came on, and placed him in very critical circumstances. The swelled gum was laid freely open till the instrument was felt on the tooth. It afforded great relief. A blister was likewise placed to nape of the neck, and medicines administered to open the bowels, and determine to the surface of the body. Cold water was dashed over the body; but it had nearly extinguished vitality.

While on the subject of teething, it is my duty to bear testimony to the use we experienced by scarifying the gums on such occasions as present great irritability of the system from teething pains. That resource has been sometimes abused in my judgment, on account of an opinion of mothers and fathers, that as scarifications are harmless, when their imaginations, or those of nurses, old women, &c. think proper, a surgeon is desired to lance the gums. But it is conceived that this operation will become prejudicial, unless confined to that condition of the system mentioned above, and when a corresponding indication will be generally found in the swelled gum.

August.—Weather much the same as last month; and no rain, to prove of any advantage to our parched fields.

Some satisfactory remarks had been made on the subject of the security afforded by vaccine inoculation,

which it is conceived will more properly form a distinct article. But it is to be lamented that the civil authorities do not yet support medical men in securing at all times a supply of vaccine lymph.

Sptember.—In various parts of the interior there had been abundant rains; but, about Spanish Town, we only had one shower; and, as it had not been followed up, no advantage was derived from it.

Pleurisies, remittent fever, and catarrhs in children, prevailed very much.

A case of amputation of the leg, in Captain R.'s *Tom*, terminated favourably. He had a sore of an obstinate foul nature, for fifteen years, which affected the bone.

As Mr R.'s case is one which more properly appears in a connected shape, it is introduced from March until that time when he left us for Europe, in June of the same year.

In March.—He set out early, in tolerable health, to take the benefit of change of air at Bossue Penn, in Clarendon, or Vere, where he could also have the benefit of Milk River bath-waters, if judged advisable. He experienced a degree of fatigue in getting there, which he did not foresee, and to which he was certainly unequal. On arriving at the place, no preparations had been made for his reception; the house was shut up; and had been so probably for a long time before. It was consequently unfit to receive any person, much less so one whose uncertain tenure of health required every care and attention. He, however, with

his friend was admitted. He fared ill after his journey; and, on getting to bed, found his sheets damp. On wakening in the morning, he was deprived of all power of the right side, including the arms and legs, and that side of his face. His speech considerably impaired.

He had been previously affected with headach and deafness; but since that attack he had neither of them.

The natural tenderness of Mr R.'s bowels, and their liability to get disordered, made it necessary to act now with caution. We found the milder cathartics uncertain in their effects; and, therefore, made frequent use of enemas, which were found to answer very well, of the saponaceous and caster-oil kind.

Stimulant or rubefacient frictions and blisters were used as external applications; mustard-seed and horse-radish infusion were taken internally. They appeared of use in removing that torpid inactivity pervading the stomach and bowels in particular.

Under a treatment, in which few medicines were ordered, he took a diet of a light but nourishing kind, with a liberal allowance of wine; and his situation, upon the whole, was improving.

It was agreed upon to try what electricity would do; and we applied it by spark and shock, about four days a-week, we flattered ourselves with some advantage.

Mr R. was about sixty.

In *April*, by persisting in electricity, and other remedies, making changes, immaterial to notice, as occasion required, he certainly was much better. His in-

tellect considerably restored; he could rest on the right leg a little; and his arm was better. His bowels were difficult to manage; and we ventured to try pills composed of calomel and gamboge with a little essential oil. They were recommended by Dr Skene; and we found them safe and efficacious.

In *May*, complained of severe pain in the ham of the affected leg. He had improved generally; and walked with more strength than he did. He took more exercise, because it seemed to do him good. Electricity continued.

In *June*, it was recommended to go, for a short time, to Port Royal, where he was prevailed upon to try the effects of galvanism. He underwent its operation with great difficulty; considerable prostration of strength ensued; his appetite failed; and every circumstance of his case became unfavourable after that time.

A change, so severe, was a deep source of affliction to Mr R. His mind, from being raised to a degree of composure, and hope that he was getting better, became extremely depressed; and it was found impossible to lead it to an opposite train of ideas. These circumstances being fully considered, he was advised to try what a voyage to Europe, and its invigorating climate, would do; to which he assented.

In *July*, he was no better; but sailed for England, in high spirits, and expectations of recovery.

After his arrival there, he got considerably better for several months, and was disposed to return; but a friend

of his, on an opinion that he required a longer stay to establish his health, left him. He got extremely low-spirited, and died soon after.

October.—Our anxiety for rain had been fully gratified that month; and we did not experience that extent of disease, which too often attended the time of the year, in such circumstances of weather.

We may therefore take an opportunity to introduce the case of Mr T. M.

In *February* last, Mr M. a gentleman about fifty, returned to the island from England, in high health. From exposure to weather, fatigue, and other sources, he contracted a bilious affection, which had given him a jaundiced appearance. He got irregular accessions of fever, cough, stomach easily nauseated, bowels very irregular. He was recommended to Bath, St Thomas in the East, by his professional friend in the country; and as these waters are peculiarly well adapted to remove biliary obstructions, the excursion might possibly be of advantage to him.

In *April*, he returned to Spanish Town, labouring under a complication of disease, proceeding chiefly from an old affection of his liver, before he went last to England. He had been under medical treatment at Bath, where his right side was blistered, and his gums made sore by a mercurial course. Some irritation was extended to the system by a swelling in the *perinæum*, now discharging, and likely to heal.

April 30.—His complaints became much worse;

there was evidently considerable disease in the liver itself; he got frequent but irregular attacks of fever; and a yellowness diffused itself over the body. At the pit of his stomach, he felt much pain on pressure; and, in a slighter degree, it was continued, by extending the hand along the right side. He lay with greater comfort on it, with more on the back; but, from a feeling of weight and pain, could not suffer a position on the left side. In a situation the most distressing, accompanied by severe spasmodic affections of the stomach, extending along the liver, torpor of the intestines, white clayey motions, often with scibulæ, he continued for about a week, little relieved by any thing that had been done for him. His colour became of a yellow blackness; languor, irritability of stomach, coldness of his extremities, and sweats, rendered every hope of recovery questionable. Singultus and subsultus were added to other alarming circumstances; when, by a happy perseverance in the treatment to be described, calculi or gall stones were passed; the biliary ducts again became the natural channel of that liquor. With an important result, such as this, great quantities of acrid viscid bile came away by stool, in as short a time as could be imagined. The yellowness of his skin went off progressively.

At the above date, the stomach, extending to the right side, was blistered; purgatives, with carbonate of magnesia; but partial effects were only produced, even when assisted by enemas. Irritability of stomach ex-

tremely distressing; skin getting very yellow; pulse about ninety, and pretty regular.

1*st May*.—Complained of acid vomiting, and was more feverish. A magnesia mixture, with jalap, and some essential oil, prescribed. Yellowness increased; his saliva deeply tinged of that colour. A senna infusion, with kali tartarisat. administered, in failure of the mixture. Had two grains calomel every three hours, adding one-fourth of a grain opium, as the state of his bowels, or irritability of stomach, required. On account of frequent retchings, had taken an anodyne draught.

2*d*.—Had taken his pills regularly; his bowels imperfectly moved, and his stools continued of the same appearance; two grains of camphor were added to each pill. Still feverish; saliva continued yellow and viscid; pain of stomach continued; blister discharged well.

3*d*.—Medicines continued; and there seemed to be no change.

4*th*.—Complained much of acid eructations from the stomach, for which calcined magnesia, with volatile aromatic spirit, was administered in a draught. Calomel pills and camphor continued; blister renewed to the stomach; kali tart. in half dram doses, taken, with infusion of quassia, every three hours.

At noon, severe vomiting; but it had been merely what he drank, or his medicine. To the kali was added ten grains of jalap.

5*th*.—Some slight operation from the purgative medicine; still very yellow; any partial sweats stained his

shirt and bed-linen of that colour. It was necessary to administer a cathartic enema. Commenced to rub in a dram of mercurial ointment, with camphor, on the right side, three times a-day; continued pills. Complained much in the afternoon of weight and sense of pressure on the stomach.

6th.—Said that pain was rather abated; bowels inactive; laxatives continued, as before; mercurial frictions and pills; yellowness the same.

7th.—Much as before; very weak. Remedies continued.

8th.—State of his bowels and irritability of stomach much the same; medicines continued; an anodyne draught at bed-time.

9th.—The laxative changed to senna infusion, with manna, and Epsom salts. Its operation more satisfactory; the motions he passed were of a natural kind, with a large quantity of acrid and viscid bile in them, indicating a necessity for keeping up the effect of medicine; gums very sore, from the mercury used; after that, to the extent of a scruple only once a-day. The acor of his stools, and the use of a pipe, excoriated the anus; he passed gall stones among the first stools he had.

10th.—The powerful operation of medicine had not lowered him. On the contrary, he experienced relief from every motion; taking infusion of colomba with small doses of rhubarb.

15th.—Yellowness nearly gone; omitted mercury; only taking a blue pill of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia

every second night; could lie on either side with ease. Continued to recover.

17*th*.—Continued to recover; and went to Port-Henderson.

About the 30*th*, he returned from Port-Henderson much improved in his health; and was strongly recommended to confirm it, by going to England. But that care of the world and its concerns, which seemed all along to give him more uneasiness than his illness, or any other prospects which it included, now led him to return to the interior of the island, where it was too likely such predisposing causes would again bring on disease of the hepatic organs, and place his life in still more critical circumstances than that from which he had so narrowly escaped.

That gentleman continued in Jamaica against the wishes of his professional and other friends. In one of the royal gazettes of that country, in 1815, his death was announced.

November.—The very favourable weather we had in October, when vegetation had been much suppressed, for want of rains, gave a degree of security to our crops, which had been confirmed by fine showers during three weeks.

In the months of September, October, November, and December, we generally suffer a great deal of bad health; and it has been observed, that as vegetation declines every year, our systems are more predisposed to an unhealthy influence. It may be remarked, that the

want of rains until October, obstructed the usual progress of vegetation; that, on their accession, it became vigorous; and the month, in place of being unhealthy, was remarkable for a reverse state.

That north breezes setting in, increase the disposition to disease, is obvious. They may be viewed as a concomitant cause.

Remittent and typhus fevers had been prevalent.

In some persons, who could be prevailed on to take it, we found bark and colomba tincture, as before noticed, of considerable advantage in the preservation of health.

The *pneumonia epidemica*, or influenza, of destructive memory, had again appeared, but under circumstances more favourable, so far as my practice extended.

December.—We continued to have moist weather, such as in the former month; coldness much increased. On the morning of the 11th, about seven, the thermometer stood at sixty-six degrees; and, about two hours before, it must have been at sixty-four. In the daytime, there was no uncomfortable increase of heat.

Though such a state of the atmosphere had been extremely acceptable to the lately arrived European, those who laboured under chronic diseases, by long residence, and persons of relaxed habits, from the same cause, could not stand it. Intermittents were formed, often of an obstinate unyielding nature.

Such a state of weather concurring with that time of

the year, when negroes indulge every excess, and inconsiderately expose themselves to cold and wet, proved the source of disease, in several instances fatal; in most cases extremely critical.

In the case of F. S.'s *Tom*, he had the upper cubital artery wounded by accident, from whence a swelling extended along the arm; and, as gangrene was apprehended, amputation was performed near the shoulder joint. Considerable difficulty was experienced on account of the artery receding, which made it necessary to use the curved needle, and include some muscle, to secure the vessel. He got well.

Some cases of the epidemic catarrh or pleurisy, when prevailing in December 1807, were observed to be much more difficult of treatment, on account of metastasis; that was peculiarly the state of some cases. In that of Mr R.'s *John*, he had every appearance of being better for several days, in the enjoyment of every thing that could be done for him in the way of comfort, when a sudden transition of his complaints, which had been formerly in his neck and head only in a slight degree, was observed in his chest, assuming symptoms of violent pneumonia. Bleeding was freely resorted to, blistering, &c. As usual, in such circumstances, pains seized on different parts of his body, and, where it fixed for any time, was of the most distressing description. For three days there was less hope of cure than in most cases I had seen. Though bleeding was followed up, a considerable hemorrhage from the nose ensued. At a

time when he was much reduced, he felt severe pain from the stomach along the abdomen, and passed by stool about two-thirds of a pint of blood: some blood was also vomited, but it was probably from his stomach. Astringent enemas became necessary. With that care in every respect to be wished for, he recovered.

January 1810.—In the three first weeks of the month we had plentiful showers; from that time dry weather. Winds more generally from the north: scarcely any sea-breezes.

On the 28th, at seven A. M. in a north-west exposure, thermometer at sixty-five degrees; and it had been often as low that month. At Mr L.'s printing-office in Spanish Town, at an earlier hour in the morning, it had been said to be about sixty degrees. Meridian heat from seventy-four to seventy-eight degrees.

Pneumonic diseases prevalent; and, for want of that early attention so necessary, some cases terminated fatally. But, it must also be admitted, there were some instances so malignant and unyielding, that we failed in our best efforts to save them.

The daughter of Mr C. a girl about fourteen, presented an instance of that violence of passion, which, when indulged and uncontrouled, is productive of great misery in the usual intercourse of life, and at length terminated fatally. She had some appearances of catamania, but they were extremely irregular. From her younger days, she had been permitted to indulge in ex-

cessive passion, which threw her often into fits. She continued longer than usual in one of these; and, on my arrival, I found her in the struggles of death.

It is the duty of parents, at an early period of life, to take measures to prevent the formation of such a temper; and they will, in most instances, succeed. So that a heavy responsibility must fall on those who permit the formation of dispositions so eminently the source of misery to themselves and to society.

Master R. V. about two and a half years, of general healthy habits.

23d.—On the morning of the 22d, in his usual good health; at noon, got feverish symptoms: extremely averse to medicine, and a boy who met with more indulgence than good for him. Got a laxative, partly given to him, which operated slightly; a solution of tartarized antimony, as the most easily taken medicine, prescribed in graduated doses till it operated.

Evening.—The solution operated by stool and vomiting. Warm and restless; skin open; fever abated; directed to use the warm-bath.

In the night, fever increased considerably, attended by delirium; bowels continued open; ordered a draught, containing water of acetated ammonia, two drams and eight drops of laudanum.

A mixture, with acetated ammonia water, taken every two hours while feverish.

24th.—Seemed much better in every respect. Con-

siderable difficulty in giving him any medicine. Small doses of antimonial wine, in water, every second hour.

In the evening.—A little feverish; warm-bath administered.

25th.—Fever increased during the night; started very much, and was confused. A camphorated julap, with diaphoretic ingredients added to it, directed to be taken by table spoonfuls every two hours; a blister to nape of his neck; calomel and contrayerva powders, to open his bowels.

Ten A. M.—In strong convulsions, with increase of fever; and two back teeth had been cut through. A purgative assafœtida enema and tepid bath had been administered; a blister to each thigh, and capsicum cataplasms to each inner ankle; enema repeated, when he got several motions; scibulæ were discharged; stools appeared to be extremely hot and acrid.

Twelve noon.—Fits were abating; much disturbed; fever not so hot; partial sweats about the head and neck; much starting, and deformity of his countenance. A mixture of carbonated magnesia, with diaphoretic materials, directed to be taken frequently.

Three P. M.—Fever considerably better; felt extremely weak; started often; countenance much agitated; mixture operated; a dram and a half of bark, in two ounces of arrow-root pap, administered by enema every third hour.

In the evening.—No material change.

26th.—Had a partly disturbed and calm night. Still indistinct, and sometimes had sudden starting; slight

fever. Continued powder of calomel and contrayerva, with the view of removing worms.

27th.—Had a better night; fever less, and more distinct; resisted the taking of nourishment; strong beef-tea added to the enemas.

In the evening.—A little fever; and passed a restless day.

28th.—Bowels more open than desirable; some tincture of catechu added to each enema; had a slight rigor about two P. M. followed by fever; but it soon went off, by repeated doses of antimonial wine.

29th.—Continued better; enemas continued.

30th.—Better; and in a few days after out of danger.

The above case is introduced, to shew the event of another case of fits, which seemed to have been produced by irritation in teething, and a deranged state of the bowels. This child, excessively indulged, had every symptom of his case aggravated by the violence of his temper, where any attempt was made to do that which was not agreeable to him. Bark would not be taken; fortunately his bowels retained it; and important indications were accomplished, by administering soup with the enemas.

The child of a Mr C. broke his thigh, at ten months old, by the carelessness of a heedless young girl, who let him fall from her arms. We experienced less difficulty in keeping so young a person at rest than could be looked for. Cohesion took place in favourable circumstances, and more rapidly than had been observed at more advanced life.

February.—The ground much parched; vegetation consequently very backward; sea breezes more generally prevailed; day time excessively hot; mornings and evenings cool.

The cases of pneumonia had been often attended by quincey, or inflammatory sore throat; but when its treatment was early attended to, the event was favourable.

A lady, only a few years in the island, discovered symptoms of chronic hepatitis, was relieved by evacuant medicines, blistering the side, and undergoing a course of the blue pill, till her gums were slightly touched.

A lady, exceeding forty, got married, and, in about eighteen months after, became pregnant. Nearly about that time she should have labour, it came on smartly; but she got into violent fits, which terminated in death, before assistance could be got for her, without any approaches to delivery of a child.

A young lady was so habitually confined in her bowels, that she was sometimes for a week without relief. She was often sickly, and required about three times a common dose to operate. This constitutional disease subjected her to spasmodic affections of her stomach and bowels.

March.—The month had been uncommonly dry, until a few days before the termination of it, when useful rains came on. Vegetation thus invigorated, and, in a time so short, the face of nature had undergone a delightful change; heat much increased; north and

sea breezes alternated a good deal. Several cases of remittent and intermittent fever occurred. Nothing professional, however, appeared, which does not seem to be anticipated in course of these memoirs.

April.—During the month, we experienced dry weather until the 30th, when we had abundant rains; atmosphere oppressive and warm; about noon each day, thermometer eighty-seven to ninety degrees.

With the exception of a protracted case of typhus fever, no other deserved particular notice. Small-pox had been introduced by inoculation, and cases were of a mild description. The heat of the weather did not appear unfavourable; and, in the open shaded piazzas, air was constantly passing, sufficiently cool for the African or Creole negro.

Mr B. an old Jew, got the epidemic cattarrh with quincey; and, to save expence, commenced his own treatment with powerful doses of calomel, which brought on profuse salivation. Our assistance was called, but too late; for the powers of deglutition were gone, and the throat so swelled that respiration could not be kept up. He died in this distressful state.

May.—We had not that succession of rainy weather necessary to keep up vegetation in so active a state as it would be with abundant moisture at that season of the year.

At half after two P. M. thermometer in the shade eighty-eight degrees.

Exposed, at same hour, out of the shade, one hundred and fifteen degrees; which was that atmosphere in which we moved, about three degrees higher than fever heat.

On the 22d, rain set in, with severe lightning and thunder; and, till the end of the month, we had fully more than enough of it.

In the shape of disease, we only had slight fevers, which terminated favourably in course of a few days. One case, aggravated by neglect, getting very wet, and some time ill before assistance was called, terminated fatally.

Of upwards of seventy persons in small-pox, we had not one case of an unfavourable nature.

Two cases of femoral hernia occurred that month, wherein, by copious bleeding, saponaceous enemas, calomel, laxatives, and cold topical applications, we were fortunate enough to subdue a strangulated state, and to accomplish reduction.

Bristol, a negro, at the Farm, had his leg amputated, and likely to do well.

June.—The effect of plentiful rains last month continued to be felt; we had sea-breezes more commonly; and heat much increased.

In the family of our clergyman, a bilious fever of short duration seized on every individual in it; and, what was unprecedented in my practice, negro servants were also affected. In the yard there was a sunk tank, that had not been cleansed out for some time. The offensive

vapours proceeding from it seemed to be the probable source of fever.

One of those painful cases, where we must have recourse to a dreadful operation, occurred that month in Miss S.'s *Caroline.* She had been in labour for three days; her strength was weakening every hour; and our efforts to deliver by the forceps failed. Symptoms were presented, which afforded probability that the fœtus was already dead. Our consideration was directed solely on that account to the mother's safety; and no other means presented, but reducing the size of the head by embryo-ulcia. It is not an undertaking of easy description for one person to perform that task; but it was accomplished; and, it is pleasant to add, the poor woman made a more rapid recovery than we expected.

The introduction of such cases are brought forward to impress on the minds of those who direct their prospects to the West Indies, to make the study of midwifery an essential part of their occupations. It is in my opinion an unpleasant branch of the profession; but I must add, that no medical gentleman should be employed for plantations, or any other department of the profession in that country, who does not carry testimonials of his ability in the practice of midwifery.

The frequent night visits we had in that branch led me to observe, that plantation practitioners, called out at night, should have extra fees; and it is believed that, in performing a service so arduous in many views, it is only necessary to bring it forward becomingly to

the consideration of proprietors, their attorneys, &c. and it would be agreed to.

Mrs ———, the friend of a gentleman of the vicinity, of a weakly constitution, was so ill in labour, that my assistance was called for. A little girl was delivered about the time of my arrival; after which there was considerable hæmorrhagy; and we found another must be produced, before the mother's danger could be over. She was extremely weak; and I feared that, from loss of blood, she would sink. The feet presenting, with small pains, they were assisted; but, when the head got into the pelvis, I conceived she was getting into fits; and, securing an exertion in her favour by the best means I could, delivery was speedily accomplished. She required the immediate assistance of cordials, and did well.

The infant last delivered was a boy. Soon after he made his arrival in this scene of troubles, he was observed to shew symptoms of approaching fits; upon which I took a lancet, and bled from the umbilical vein about two table spoonfuls. A change immediately favourable was produced; and he has since done well.

July.—For the first three weeks of the month we had little rain; weather extremely hot and disagreeable. Such a profusion of moisture, in May and June, had amply saturated the earth, and its effects continued.

The excessive falls of rain we had in May and June answered all the purposes of vegetation; but, whether

it was from so many ponds being formed of stagnant water, undergoing certain putrescent operations, including the animal productions of such water, it was difficult to determine. But that month had been more unhealthy than perhaps any other at the time of year, since the commencement of my practice in the island.

Remittent bilious fevers were very frequent, of a protracted and severe description, such as we meet with in the fall of the year. One case, of a lady, was protracted to the fifteenth day.

Mr S. overseer on Ellis's Caymanas estate, was much in the habit of taking medicine, when he felt slightly indisposed, from the stores of the estate. He wanted a dose of cream of tartar; took down a jar, without a label, and mixed up a table spoonful of its contents, which he immediately drank. In about ten minutes, he felt the dreadful effects of arsenic, which he had taken by mistake, by severe retchings, subsequent constant disposition to go to stool. He was soon insensible; and died in little more than two hours.

It must be unnecessary to any mind of feeling or prudence to enlarge on the cautions necessary to have such materials in particular made jars, and in a place of privacy, that will do away the possibility of such misfortunes.

August.—For the purposes of vegetation, had abundant rains, with extreme heat, and oppression of atmosphere. We consider August the first of those months in which hurricanes are apprehended; and, as the

morning of the fifteenth had appearances which the people said were antecedent to hurricane, I shall note the minute I took on that day.

On the *15th*, A. M.—We had rain during the former night, which continued heavy for a great part of it; atmosphere appeared very stormy, and disturbed; wind from the north, but varying, and coming on by sudden squalls frequently; clouds looked threatening, of a bright, yet deep blue. Our north breezes are in general cold and humid; they were not so at the above date; on the contrary, they conveyed a fiery warmth. About eight A. M. rain set in, and continued heavy till nearly one P. M. It became fair at that time, and continued for three quarters of an hour. Between one and two, squally from the east, but varying from the north, and sometimes from all quarters at the same time, threatening to sweep every thing away by its impetuosity. About half past five P. M. had a smart flash of lightning, at no great distance, succeeded by thunder. After that time, the storm abated; heavy rain came on in the night; it was squally next day, but to no injurious extent.

We had more sickness during that month than common; but there was little of a nature which had not been noticed before.

A negro boy, *John*, who had a bad second toe of his foot, suffered its removal by excision. It is proper to mention, that this incurable sore proceeded originally from a chigoe lodging and breeding in the part. In the third week after, when almost well, the weather

was cold and damp, and he got frequent slight chills and tremors over his body. During these, his reasonable faculties were obscured, and his jaws were slightly fixed. We bathed him in warm water. As the sore part was discharging little, a suppurating poultice was applied, and a blister put between his shoulders. A couple of days under diaphoretics and tonics, aided by every comfort his mistress could give him, put him in the way of recovery; and he did well.

Three young boys of colour, sent to school from the country, after being some months in town, got each, in succession, a remittent fever, of bilious character, with slight symptoms of typhus. Such a fever had certainly somewhat of the contagious character.

The extensive prevalence of disease in that month was unusual; but the incessant fatigue to which it was necessary for me to be exposed, again suggested the use of Huxham's bark tincture; and I cannot help believing that it saved me from an attack of illness.

September had been one of the most distressing months experienced for a long time: the extreme heat, oppressive nature of the atmosphere, heavy and continued rains, state of perishing animal and vegetable matter, combined to produce many sources of disease, such as fever, dysentery, cholera, ophthalmia, eruptive diseases, and fevers in children, attended by fits. Seabreezes more generally prevailed during the day; at night, and in the morning, north winds.

Mr ———'s, a case of bilious remittent, connected

with disease of the liver; had been several days ill before medical assistance was called; and calomel was thrown into his stomach in prodigious doses; sometimes thirty-six grains in a day.

Owing to an habitual system he had pursued of taking that medicine, it became less active; and, under the influence of fever, derived, in a great measure, from a diseased liver, the stomach and bowels had that indolent character we meet with so frequently; and calomel, exhibited even in such doses as these, had no effect on his bowels.

His fever, after my being called in, became more critical, owing to the delay he had insisted on, the first few days of illness, to procure assistance. It was found necessary to affect his system with mercury, and to call in the aid of powerful evacuant remedies, to relieve the bowels from that load of calomel he had unwisely introduced to them.

October.—We had heavy rains during the month, to an extent scarcely known before; considerable degree of cold, with that unpleasant humidity which must attend such heavy rains in the fall of the year. We were often without any breeze whatever; a state in that country most distressing.

Diseases of the greatest frequency were remittent and intermittent fevers. Persons of unhealthy or relaxed constitution before, were more severely affected. In children, fits, with fever, were prevalent. In new comers, there were two cases of fever, which put on a

malignant shape. In one of them, much delay and bad nursing were added to other unfavourable circumstances of his case; and he died. The other, that of Mr W. set in with symptoms of no favourable kind; but a moderate cheerfulness of mind, a constant readiness to obey whatever directions were given to him, no tendency to gloomy apprehensions, seemed to operate very materially in his favour; and he recovered to a state of full intermission by the seventh day.

Master T. a little boy, about two to three years of age, an orphan, humanely adopted by the Misses L. of that town, got fever and violent convulsion fits from teething, which continued sometimes with little remission for three days. In a constitution so weakly, it is astonishing how much that child went through, and still to exist. Feverish symptoms went off about the ninth and eleventh days; and he was left a weakly convalescent indeed.

The extreme good care the child met with from his benevolent protectors, had contributed more to his recovery than any thing our profession could do for him.

Scarifying his gums became an important part of his treatment; and it certainly was beneficial. The warm-bath, vermifuge laxatives, diaphoreteis, blisters to different parts; opiates by the mouth, and in assafoetida enemas. In a more advanced state, bark was thrown in, and used by every channel it possibly could be effected, excepting the surface of the body.

November.—From 12th of the month had only light showers from the north; in other respects felt no favourable change.

The prevalence of fevers had exceeded any thing of the kind since the commencement of my practice in the West Indies. Fits had been frequent in children, attended by fever; and, as teething was certainly a great source of irritation, if the gums were found in that swelled state, discovering increased sensibility, they were freely divided; and in almost every case afforded great relief to the child.

Though the numerous cases of fever that month might occupy much room here, it appears that nothing new occurred of moment, but what has been already noticed.

December.—Until the 23d, we had dry weather, with slight drizzling rains occasionally; since then, heavy rains from the north.

The sickly state of the country much the same as in November; and many cases proved fatal.

In a case of urinary obstruction, from enlargment of the prostate gland, fifteen drops of the *tinctura ferri muriatta*, every fifteen minutes, were given with great advantage. It appeared to procure relief, when other remedies had failed.

Mr ———, a young man, about two months from Europe, got the malignant fever at Dawkin's Caymanas estate; and died on the sixth day of the disease.

Mr ——, a foreigner, got remittent fever. I found it necessary to treat him with less powerful medicines than we are in the habit of using with our more vigorous countrymen.

January 1811.—The year commenced with good weather; but, after the 18th, was very unpleasant; winds more commonly from the north. Diseases much of the same description as the former month.

Mr V.'s *Floretta* was a case of typhus fever, which extended to the thirtieth day, complicated with worms; but terminated in her recovery.

Mr M.'s case was astonishingly similar to the illness he had in January 1806; and it is but fair to observe here, what advantages were derived from reference to the detail at that time, applied in a great measure to circumstances of his treatment.

February.—We experienced the pleasure of dry weather in some degree that month; heat considerably increased; sea breezes began to refresh us; and norths, morning and evening, were moderate. The unhealthy state of the island for some months before had been a source of melancholy reflection to many; but it is gratifying to be able to say, that disposition to disease became less prevalent.

Mr ——, a gentleman from ——, got much intoxicated, went home to his lodgings, to a high up-stair bed apartment; his servant locked him in the room. The unlucky man had got up, and expected to

find the door; but, in a confused state of mind, could only feel a window open. He stept over, and fell a considerable height, among bricks, bottles, &c. He passed a bad night, and sent for me in the morning.

On visiting him, no particular injury could be discovered; but he was bled freely. A dose of calomel, three grains, with a grain of opium, was administered, on account of his not having passed any urine. He got a little rest, when a camphorated julap, with nitrous æther and laudanum, were prescribed; the tincture *ferri muriata* was given in doses of twelve drops every fifteen minutes; a cathartic mixture of Epsom salts was now added. Saponaceous enemas, warm camomile fomentations, constantly applied to the abdomen; the catheter was then introduced; but little more than a dribbling followed. However, when the operation of medicine was going on, the urine also came off freely. Peritoneal inflammation was feared; and much attention was necessary for some days to his case. He found himself a good deal better by our united care of him; and set off to the country.

At the time he got the fall, his bladder must have been pretty fully charged with urine; and, when none followed the introduction of a catheter, it was rendered still more probable that, in the violence of such a fall, it might have been ruptured. Happily, however, that opinion proved erroneous; and he made a good recovery.

March.—Had dry weather during the month, until

about the last day, when a very seasonable and abundant shower did much good. Regular sea breezes during the day, and moderate norths prevailed. Vegetation in pretty full vigour.

The remaining consequences of a sickly season were still felt; but fewer recent instances of disease experienced than for several months before; and it was expected that the suffering valetudinarian in tedious and loathsome intermittent, the relaxed European, who had undergone his seasoning fever, would all be restored to better health, by the more salutary constitution of the atmosphere we then enjoyed.

A case of tetanus occurred in a negro, *Newhall Prince*, wherein a severe lacerated wound of the leg had been inflicted about nineteen days before. It is unnecessary to enter on detail, farther than to state, that, by the usual mode of treatment, he recovered in about two weeks.

While Prince was undergoing considerable distress from the disease, a negro from Prospect estate, who had been a patient of mine in February and March 1802, under tetanus, was brought to visit him. He happened to be a friend of Prince's, and recovered to a state of great health and vigour. I could perceive that Prince was highly satisfied with seeing him; and, in my opinion, a salutary influence was thus conveyed, favourable to the issue of the disease.

Mr A. B.'s was a case of fever, in a constitution seldom otherwise than suffering under gouty diathesis. It is introduced here, to notice the aggravated cases we

we met with in that country. Mr B.'s joints were habitually enlarged, the fingers and toes particularly, and cretaceous tumours discharged a white matter, followed by pieces of bone, converted to that state. W. C. may be mentioned as one of those who suffered under that kind of it; and many more names might be brought forward, to confirm its peculiar severity in the country.

The prejudicial effects of the *eau medicinale* in gout cannot be too much guarded against. It has the property of affording a degree of relief soon after it is taken, which has made it a most acceptable remedy to those who are not aware of the consequences its harsh operation fastens on the constitution. Suffice it to say, that I have known every instance of its use followed by weakened constitution, remaining strength undermined, and brought to a state of debility, which subjected the unfortunate victims to a fatal event, after a few paroxysms.

April.—The rains during the month had been so trifling, that the purposes of vegetation were not promoted; heat increased considerably; and, on those persons who had not time to recover the late unhealthy season, it operated with particular severity.

We had fewer sick that month than for many past. The fevers that occurred assumed no symptoms of danger; but invalids, in consequence of former disease, were still in a weakly condition.

May.—All the disagreeable attendants of dry

weather, in a climate where we pant under a heat at noon of sometimes eighty-eight degrees in the shade, had been felt that month. A comet appeared in the north west, of great size and brilliancy.

Though such a distressing state of atmosphere might be considered conducive to disease, we had few that month. Some cases of ulcerated sore throat occurred, and one of *cynanche trachealis;* but, where proper assistance was duly attended to, no unfavourable event ensued.

June.—Our expected May rains (seasons) failed in a great measure; but, about the middle of the month, some slight showers renewed the vigour of vegetation; Heat continued severe; it had been at ninety degrees in the shade. Sea breezes made it more tolerable; and they were pretty regular.

Measles were an epedemic that month; but they did not assume any dangerous type.

My experiments on the efficacy of vaccination were extremely favourabe to that valuable discovery.

Mr G. a man of colour, of extremely correct conduct and respectability, had been in England for some years, where he was bred a saddler, and returned to that country. He contracted fever; and it assumed many of those malignant symptoms which characterized the endemia causus of new comers from Europe. He had dark vomiting before he died; and, on the whole, I am disposed to believe his case to have been what we understand as yellow fever, though it is the only one

which came under observation in a mulatto, since I had been in the island.

P. R. was a case of fever, complicated with worms, which assumed symptoms of typhus, and extended to the twenty-eighth day, before a favourable crisis ensued. A sister of her's, in the same house, was also infected by fever.

July.—Moderate rains during the month; atmosphere had been cloudy; extremely close; heat at times insupportable, and additionally so, owing to the failure of sea breezes.

A lady came to town in June, in advanced pregnancy, from six to seven months. We had reason to fear also that she had ascites; and were certainly treating her with such gentle anti-hydropic remedies as were not likely to affect her situation. But it was afterwards found, in consequence of premature labour, that the disease consisted in a supernatural collection of the *liquor amnii* in the uterus; for all hydropic symptoms vanished with that discharge.

In a case of consumption of the lungs, finely levigated tartarised antimony, sprinkled on the surface of any plaster, and placed to the chest, produced powerful effects as a rubefacient, and raised pustules, containing a serous or bloody liquor. Great pain was excited; and, in several instances, powerful effects had arisen from it, by relieving the chest. In the case above mentioned, it was of sensible advantage in procuring alleviation of distressing symptoms; but, in future trials,

though it gave internal relief, the external pain produced by it was loudly complained of, and frightened the patient against repeating a trial of it.

Dr Bennet, my partner, brought the remedy into use; and in Miss S. L's. *Betsey*, a case of hemoptysis, plasters of tartarised antimony were successively used with considerable advantage.

Mr H.'s infant, in thrush, seemed to profit much by a mixture of flowers of sulphur, magnesia, and rhubarb.

Miss —— of ebriety, died a victim to that disgraceful vice.

The instances of drunkenness in both sexes are concluded with the above: And I shall now avail myself of some extracts, which tend to confirm the evidence, that combustion in the human body takes place in consequence of the excessive use of vinous and spiritous liquours.

In 1692, a case is related in the Transactions of Copenhagen, of a woman of the lower class, excessively addicted to spirits, who could take no other nourishment. She sat down on a straw chair to sleep; was consumed in the night time; so that no part was found of her next morning, but the skull and the extreme joints of the fingers. All the rest of her body was reduced to ashes.

In 1763, the Countess Cornelia Bandi, of the town of Cidena, aged sixty-two, had a good state of health. One evening, having experienced a sort of drowsiness, she retired to bed; and her maid remained with her till

she fell asleep. Next morning, when the girl entered to awake her mistress, she found nothing but her remains in a most horrid condition. The Countess was in the habit of bathing her body in camphorated spirits. The Annual Register of 1763 mentions the case; also two other facts of the same kind which occurred in England,—one at Southampton, the other at Coventry.

The Annual Register of 1778, p. 78, gives a case by Mr Wilmer, surgeon. "Mary Clues, aged fifty, was much addicted to intoxication. Her propensity to this vice had increased after the death of her husband, which happened a year and a half before. For about a year, scarcely a day had passed in the course of which she did not drink at least half a pint of rum or aniseed water. Her health gradually declined; and, about the beginning of February, she was attacked by the jaundice, and confined to bed. Though she was incapable of much action, and not in a condition to work, she still continued her old habit of drinking every day, and smoking a pipe of tobacco. The bed in which she lay stood parallel to the chimney of the apartment; the distance about three feet. On Saturday morning, 1st of March, she fell on the floor; and her extreme weakness having prevented her from getting up, she remained in that state till some one entered, and put her in bed. The following night she wished to be left alone; a woman quitted her at half-past eleven; and, according to custom, shut the door, and locked it. She had put on the fire two large pieces of coal, and placed a light in a candlestick

on a chair at the head of the bed. At half after five in the morning, a smoke was seen issuing through the window; and the door being speedily broken open, some flames which were in the room were soon extinguished. Between the bed and chimney were found the remains of the unfortunate Clues. One leg and a thigh were still entire; but there remained nothing of the skin, the muscles, or the viscera. The bones of the cranium, the breast, the spine, and the upper extremities, were entirely calcined, and covered with a whitish efflorescence. The people were surprised that the furniture had sustained so little injury. The side of the bed which was next the chimney had suffered the most; the wood of it was slightly burnt; but the feather bed, the clothes, and covering, were safe. I entered the apartment about two hours after it had been opened; and observed that the walls and every thing in it were blackened; that it was filled with a very disagreeable vapour; but that nothing except the body exhibited any strong traces of fire."

The Transactions of the Royal Society of London give an instance of human combustion, no less extraordinary, in the case of Grace Pitt, where she was consumed by fire, without apparent flames. Her daughter ran and procured water in two large vessels, when she discovered her mother's situation; but it had no effect; while the fœtid odour and smoke which exhaled from the body had almost suffocated some of the neighbours, who had hastened to the girl's assistance.

Dr Trotter remarks, "that we have no instances of

men suffering by combustion. Perhaps, when the cause is examined, it will appear perfectly natural. The female body is in general more delicate than that of the other sex. The system of their solids is more relaxed, their fibres are more fragile, and of a weaker structure; and, therefore, their texture more easily hurt. Their mode of life also contributes to increase the weakness of their organization. Women, abandoned in general to a sedentary life, charged with the care of internal domestic economy, and often shut up in a close apartment, where they are condemned to spend whole days without taking any exercise, are more subject than men to become corpulent. The texture of the soft parts in female bodies being more spongy, absorption ought to be freer; and as their whole bodies imbibe spiritous liquors with more ease, they ought to experience more readily the impression of fire."

To impress on the mind of man, gifted with a sense of right and wrong, and conscious of his superiority in the vast scale of animation, that every claim is forfeited to a proud station, by surrendering to habitual excess in drinking, is the object of these remarks. And Dr Trotter concludes his excellent Dissertation in the following terms.—

"When a drunken man is lavish of promises, which he never made when sober, be assured his kindness is not worth your thanks.

"When you hear a drunken man boasting of his generosity to his friends, beware how you receive a favour from that man.

"When you hear a drunken man telling family secrets, whether of his own or those of other people, put that man down for a fool, and take care what you say in his presence.

"When you hear a drunken man boast of his favours from the sex, be assured that man has no honour.

"When you hear a drunken man bragging of his courage, mark that man a coward.

"When you hear a drunken man vaunting of his riches, be assured he cannot be estimable for his virtues.

"When you hear a drunken man pitying misfortunes which he did not relieve when sober, it is the strongest proof that he possesses no goodness of heart.

"Receive no donations from a drunken man, lest he should ask them again when sober.

"Avoid the company of a drunkard; for if he insults you, and you should insist on satisfaction, he will plead want of recollection as apology.

"Let the sober man beware of the society of drunkards, lest the world say that he means to take an advantage of their credulity.

"In how much is the drunkard guilty of suicide, that expires during the paroxysm, after the immoderate use of spiritous liquours?"

August.—As usual in the dog-days, heat had been extremely oppressive; temperature variable; much humidity; sometimes north winds; heavy rains; lightning and thunder.

Some cases of bilious fever occurred under various circumstances of constitution; but we lost no patients.

A gentleman who rode a considerable distance for several days, exposed to the sun's heat, got affected by it, and shewed symptoms of violent inflammation in the brain, which was subdued by copious bleedings, blistering, and purgatives; but though his life seemed for the present out of immediate danger, his mind discovered a great degree of imbecillity; for which he was recommended to be sent to his home in the country, to be kept very quiet, and on a moderate diet.

A case occurred, which contributed greatly to confirm the frequency of violent dyspnœa under rigor, more particularly where severe affections of the mind are influencing disease. That this state will be found in case of bodily disease, where effusion in the chest, diseases of the liver, ascites, dyspepsia, and others, exist, is not to be wondered at; but when, from its frequency, we see it also particularly affect persons under no such circumstances, but, on farther inquiry, find their minds to be influenced by the extremes of one or other opposite passion, it must be admitted that the state of the mind possesses a powerful agency over the cold stage of fever, rendering it either severe or otherwise, as it is calm or agitated.

A person who had been in England for some time on account of his health, returned to the island; exposed himself much to the sun; and, too probably, indulged in the common beverage of the country, rum

and lemonade. After coming in to dinner, and about to shave, he fell down suddenly in a fit, from which he had recovered a good deal before my arrival. He had a full and frequent pulse; he was consequently bled freely. By evacuant remedies and quietness, he got better.

The above case was certainly apoplectic; temperance had been particularly recommended, and as little exposure to the sun as possible.

In the case of a little girl from Mr M.'s Mountain. She was sent to us with fever; had frequent startings, in which she seemed to be greatly alarmed. She had vermifuge medicines, such as cow-itch, calomel, &c. freely given: passed round worms; and recovered.

September.—Though unusual at that season, we had several abundant falls of rain; heat more moderate, though for several days it had been oppressively warm, and sea-breezes barely felt.

An attack of bilious remittent accompanied disease of the liver in a Mrs M. which, after some time, yielded only to the effect of mercury on her system.

In the neighbourhood of the race-course, a white man with his family, and some negroes, settled to the north side of it, at William's Penn. The soil is clayey; rains lay long in small pools, without being absorbed by the earth; there was much bushy wood about it, to render the air unwholesome. His negroes got unhealthy with fevers; one died, and the rest were in a tottering condition. His children also got sickly; so

that he was at length obliged to desert the place, and go to a small mountain in the Red Hills to recover.

In a case of fever, combined with hepatic disease, a favourable crisis was obtained by bleeding, a mercurial course and purgatives, with squill and calomel.

Mr T.'s family made an excursion from Kingston to a residence near the race-course, not so bad, but little better, than that above alluded to. Two of the children were soon laid down with fever, and none of them altogether escaped illness. It was necessary to remove them before a general change favourable to health was effected.

Samuel Duntze, a very faithful good negro, had been ill for some days before my assitance was called to him. In his stomach he said he had dreadful pain; he was in a state of great languor, and he hiccuped very frequently; his pusle was feeble, and not so frequent as natural.

It was found necessary to add cordial medicines to any others, so needful to bring about a neglected state of his bowels. They were administered under these cautions,—a blister was placed to the epigastrium, æther, camphor, musk, opium, &c. were tried, but all failed; he sunk in course of the day. I was called to him.

The uncommon nature of the case induced me to inquire for some satisfactory cause for the poor man's death. And I was informed that, in Kingston, he was exceedingly heated. For some time before, ice had been imported from America; and Duntze, eager to do

away his thirst, drank abundantly of its water, and was taken ill very soon after.

October.—We had frequent and heavy rains during the month, as are usually expected under the name of October seasons; weather much cooler; norths more prevalent, and considerable humidity of atmosphere. About the 20th, and some previous days, a great degree of perturbation was perceived in the clouds, which made many apprehend a storm or hurricane; but it went off with a few severe squalls, which did some injury to the shipping, knocked down provisions, and several lives were lost among the canoes, boats, and shipping. No lightning or thunder, was considered a bad omen.

Mr R. a young man, about twenty-five years of age, got a severe fever under the following circumstances.

He was at St Thomas in the Vale, on a visit among his friends, living very freely, and paying little regard to those precautions so necessary at all times in such a climate, but particularly at a season of the year so predisposing to disease. He got fever, with great determination of blood to the head; and, as he was of a plethoric constitution, he should have been bled at that time; but no assistance was procured for two days, during which he was extremely ill; and he was then carried down to Spanish Town, in a situation very unfit for such a journey.

I found him in a state of ardent fever, his countenance flushed, and with a rapid full pulse. He was imme-

diately put under evacuants most calculated to produce speedy and copious stools. Their effects were fully answered, and discovered the neglected circumstances in which he had been hitherto placed. A blister was applied between his shoulders, to relieve the head and remove fever: successive blisters were placed to his stomach and thighs; sinapisms to his ankles. The case terminated favourably.

An opportunity was given me to attend with Dr Bennet in that case. At one of our visits, Mr R. was under one of those violent paroxysms, where much flushing of his face, and other symptoms, would at first convey an opinion that bleeding was imperiously called for. This was Dr B.'s persuasion; and it was not possible to remove it. I requested he would wait to see the event of a few hours. When we again called to see our patient, remission had by that time taken place. We were all doing what we could to introduce nourishment, and rouse the patient from extreme debility, by powerful stimulants. Dr B. then acknowledged what danger bleeding would be attended with at that time; and though I am friendly to bleeding in the earlier stages, no remedy appears to me to require discriminating judgment more than resorting to it, or letting it alone, in the fevers of that country.

At certain seasons, the malignant or yellow fever had been known to pass so readily from a state of ardent fever to that of extreme lowness, that no stimulants or remedies could be found to prevent the patient from

sinking. When such a fever is epidemic, we must watch well and minutely the symptoms from the invasion of fever. An attentive practitioner devoted to his professional duties, will discover what is reasonably placed within our limited indications of cure, and decide on so important a step as that of blood letting, or its omission.

November.—At the fall of the year, we generally had unpleasant wet weather from the north; but that month was more agreeable. Mornings and evenings cool, with few exceptions; north breezes more generally prevailed; and rains were moderate.

Persons of relaxed constitution suffered under the north winds; and it appears, from these details, that, during their prevalence at that time of the year, Europeans, who had not undergone fever previously, were more liable to attacks of a malignant type than at any other time of the year.

A negro woman, of stout healthy appearance, had been much in the habit of dry nursing children for some years, but seemed to be a good deal reduced in her appearance; a pure black skin, the indication of health in negroes, assumed a dirty yellow appearance, in spots or streaks on her face, and other parts of the body. She also complained of pain in her chest; which afterwards increased to confirmed phthisis, and put on such determined symptoms, that she died in about two months of it.

J. W. a free lad of colour, contracted yaws at an early period of life; and it is more probable that their

future consequences were not sufficiently guarded against, by careful and skilful treatment, for the man had not enjoyed a good state of health since. He was afflicted with bone-aches, and foul sores on the legs, of that nature too frequently met with in the country, from similar causes. A course of mercury by calomel, opium, and antimonial powder, had been prescribed for internal use; frictions of the ointment externally, on the legs, so far as they admitted of it. The mercurial was changed to Plummer's pill, after a short time, as it had been found particularly efficacious in cuticular and ulcerated cases. While a course was thus conducted, the sores got much better; his pains considerably abated; and though under effects of medicine, generally attended by increasing debility, his strength and spirits were improved.

An excessive confidence in his own powers to resist disease, so far deluded him, as to expose himself to the cold air and damps at that season, while his system was saturated by mercury. I was called to visit him, in fits of a most violent epileptic kind; and, after the application of what was necessary to restore the functions of the skin, by warm bathing and other remedies, he recovered from their consequences. His course of medicines for the cure of bone-ache was continued for upwards of two months; and he left us to every appearance cured.

Mr T. M. who was so extremely ill under our care about twelve months before, had a nine day return of remittent fever, accompanied by hepatic disease; and it

should have been urged on his mind the propriety of resorting to that climate where he might recover from it. But it must be admitted, that though our native air may be adviseable in many cases, its salutary effects will be governed by removing property from the country, or leaving it in that unravelled condition, which will not be the means of constantly perplexing the mind;—a state certainly disposing to those aggravated circumstances of hepatic disease, likely to produce fatal consequences.

As the preceding case will probably close those affecting the liver, the author is induced to notice his surprise at the numerous reports he has met with of the prevalence of hepatitis in Britain. It unluckily happens, that diseases have their fashionable seasons, as well as other things; and it is to be feared, that dyspeptic complaints, or those depending on the stomach, are often pronounced liver affections, when no such disease exists; and the unlucky patient is doomed to a mercurial course. If a female, her beauty, her teeth, and general appearance, are sacrificed! An instance came within the narrator's observation lately. A young lady mentioned, that, in a certain town, she found it necessary to call in a physician, who pronounced, on the first occasion he had ever seen her, and immediately on entering the room, that her liver must be certainly diseased. The lady's credulity was imposed on; a great deal was thought of such consummate skill; and to mercurials she submitted, till I saw her, when they were omitted. Her gums got affected; but I am con-

dent, from the circumstances of her case, that she was considerably dyspeptic only, attended by nervous irritability.

December.—The nights and mornings of the month had been pleasant; and it may be conceived, where we could seldom suffer a sheet covering in bed, what pleasure was experienced, when we reposed, without feeling those parched sensations so frequently disturbing the sleep we desired, in a climate exhausting us, and requiring such a state of rest to recover the means of renewed exertions.

North winds more generally prevailed. Fevers of a remittent and intermittent type had been frequent; but fortunately they did not assume those malignant symptoms so often experienced at that season of the year.

Mrs I. whose case was mentioned before, was from eighty to ninety years of age, and enjoyed a great share of good health. She sent for assistance on account of vertigo she had lately repeated returns of, but, on that occasion, with considerable prostration of strength. Her pulse was weak and irregular. Contrary to her usual habits, she was prevailed on to take a warmly spiced spiritous cordial, and some solid nourishing food. On my return to town, a camphor and æther julap was sent to her; stimulating frictions were used to her extremities. On my visit to her next day, she was comfortable; and, in her usual contented cheerful way, begged to have no more medicine. She required no more; and of course we did not annoy her.

Mr M. junior, about fifteen, lately from Europe, got remittent bilious fever, blended with some symptoms of the malignant kind; but he was in a state of convalesence by the ninth day, and got well,

January 1812.—With the exception of having had sea breezes more generally in the day time, had weather of much the same description as the former month, only it was warmer.

The early prevalence of sea breezes was uncommon; and I hoped antecedent to a general state of good health.

Though some cases of fever had occurred, it is pleasing to add that none of them were distinguished by malignant symptoms; and all of them terminated favourably.

Mr P. I. a case of dysentery, had been extremely ill for several months; and it was pretty clear that an ulcerated state of the intestinal passage had taken place. After baffling every attempt at cure for such a length of time, it was suggested to send him to Milk River bath, the waters of which spring have been known to be of great use in such cases. He would have the comforts of a friend's house near the spring, and therefore proceeded three weeks before to the place. His report of himself was as follows:—"I am extremely happy to inform you that, from the second or third day after I arrived here, my health has been mending; and, for these ten days past, I have had no appearance of blood or the complaint about me. The second day after I arrived, I went to the bath, drank about half a

pint of the water, continuing it regularly, which made its way through me, without creating the least pain or weakness; and ever since my motions have been more and more natural. Although I frequently eat heartily, I have only two or three moves per day; and the stomach digests pretty well. What a blessing to one who has been so long deprived of any thing like health!"

In a country where Providence had given us such a place for the recovery of health, it does not say much for the public spirit or policy of the country, that accommodations for the reception of invalids are not adequately furnished, to afford comfort at the fountain of cure; for, with a few precautions, bilious affections would be early removed. The foundation of liver complaints might be altogether prevented by timeously hastening to the use of these waters; but the want of comfortable lodgings must deter the valetudinarian from resorting to a situation where the means of recovery are averted by such a privation.

In Mr J. M's. case of intermittent fever of the tertian type, his disease resisted our efforts to cure him for six months. Half an hour before the approach of rigor, from one to two grains of opium, with camphor and antimonial powder, were administered, which had the effect, for some time, with other subsequent remedies, to subdue it; but it again recurred about March. It did not appear to be connected with any hepatic disease; and at last it was determined to send him to England, where I met him. The passage completely removed the disease.

February.—That month may be considered, throughout, as one of dry weather; the few transient showers we had answered no favourable purposes to vegetation; and its extreme heat dried up any moisture in a time inconceivably short.

On some occasions, we felt severely the sultry and oppressive state of the atmosphere. On the 14th, about three P. M. when putting down some prescriptions, I was sensible of a rumbling noise, as if proceeding from the bowels of the earth; which, to my senses, ascended to the firmament, and was succeeded by terrific agitation of the earth. The house crackled around me; an awful impression was made on my mind. It is customary with those, whose presence of mind permit them, to run into the streets or fields; but, though that may be consistent with prudence, it had been my way, since in the island, to remain still in the place where I happened to be at the time.

Occupied in closing my concerns, as far as possible, little attention had been given to practice during the month. With it, these memorandums will close, so far as the West Indies are concerned; and, in terminating them, but particularly as I am now transcribing them for the press, whatever estimation they may be held in, it is but justice to conclude with declaring, that professional, and other duties belonging to man, have been promoted materially by the condition of mind which naturally proceeds from committing the transactions of life in regular record.

April 5. 1812.—Having made previous arrangements, much less to my satisfaction than the extent of my claims in Jamaica warranted, went on board the Phœnix, Captain Taylor, for England, in the evening.

6th.—Set sail early in the morning, with a favourable land-breeze; cleared the Narrows, from Port-Royal, by twelve noon, and proceeded under a light breeze during the day.

The present rate of passage may be here introduced. For myself and a black servant I paid seventy-five guineas. Stock and provisions laid in amount to about L.160 currency.

7th.—Opposite to Morant Bay in the morning; had an elegant view of the sea coast, including Belvidere, and other sugar estates. Expected to be joined, from Morant Bay, by the Essex, Muirhead, to run together, for mutual protection, without convoy.

8th.—Cleared the east end of Jamaica; squalls during the night; but we moved under a steady breeze. Ship rolled much; caught two dolphins. In the stomach of one of them found flying fish, in a broken state, and several worms among them. Were joined by the Essex, and agreed to keep together.

9th.—Moderate breeze in the night; were in sight of the Grande-ance Mountains of St Domingo; light

wind, and favourable current; looking out for a convoy that sailed from Port-Royal on the 6th.

10*th*.—Becalmed all night, and in the morning, till about ten, when a fine breeze set in from the south-east. Had the misfortune to lose one of the invalids, sent on board in a very exhausted state. Gaining fast on Irish Bay, St Domingo.

11*th*.—Light winds in the night; calm in the morning. The fleet we left near Port-Royal, under convoy, in sight a-stern, and gaining on us. The Southampton frigate, commanded by Sir James Lucas Yeo, accompanied the few ships of which it was composed; the Barbadoes frigate also in sight. Becalmed in the evening; spoke a Spanish schooner from La Plata, St Domingo, bound to Kingston, Jamaica.

12*th*.—In the night, a breeze sprung up from the north; the Essex distant from us a-stern. Were boarded by a pressing party from the Southampton. The insolence of these people, in making search for concealed men, can be scarcely conceived. Two young men were dragged away from us, who fondly anticipated a return to their native land, and to those friends so dear to them. Now, they were forced into a service, where they could have no such chance for a long time, if ever. The scene of uncertainty and apprehension so deeply expressed, when all hands were ordered up, and the roll was calling, must have affected any person of the

smallest sensibility; but, when these poor fellows proceeded to go over the side of the ship, it was lamentable to witness the affliction which overpowered them. A feeling of sincere regret for their fate, by all of us, accompanied them. The Southampton soon after went to America, and it is believed had not returned in 1816.

It is expected that my remarks on the condition of negroes will be admitted as impartial; that I have blamed and commended, as respective merits seemed in justice to demand; and it has appeared, that, giving due weight to the state of improved civilization we know negroes to possess, they enjoy as much of freedom as it would be well for them to do. In their masters, they have zealous and kind protectors in general; and they are not to be thus doomed to banishment, or put into a service they feel an abhorrence to, without due trial, and as a punishment for crimes.

Those persons who cry aloud about the situation of negroes, their persecutions, and want of liberty, should reflect on the cruel cases of pressed men. Oppression is there avowedly, and often wantonly, exercised against their own countrymen. Who could have seen such a scene, coming from the West Indies, and not have felt that these two poor fellows' liberty had suffered an invasion, which my residence in the West Indies furnished no adequate example of?

Though that invasion of a British subject's liberty is exercised, it ought to be viewed as one of those evils necessarily existing, for which no adequate remedy has

been yet discovered. It is, however, a subject to which the ministers of our King owe great consideration, to prevent its wanton exercise against a high minded people, who love their country, and are ever ready to defend it.

At noon, moving on slowly, with a south wind, nearing Cape Nichola Mole.

18*th.*—A favourable wind since seven P. M. the day before; cleared the Mole; in sight of Cuba; distant from Heneaga nine leagues. One of the invalids died yesterday. Heneaga is low land; the passage is critical; and a sharp look-out must be kept for it.

14*th.*—Passed Heneaga that morning, about eight A. M.; a light, but fair wind; in sight of the convoy. On account of unfavourable winds, obliged to determine on following the Crooked Island passage; in the evening, a stiff breeze.

15*th.*—Had fresh breezes during the night; lay to, since one in the morning, till day-light; and being then nearly up with Castle Island, bore for it; proceeded to get through the Crooked Island passage; six sail of the convoy in sight.

16*th.*—Got clear of Watland island, leaving it to the south-west; fine wind, though varying frequently; and we now took leave of land for some time.

17*th*.—Got on well; air considerably cooler; and began to say that a feeling of greater vigour was already conveyed to us by it.

18*th*.—Had moderate breezes in the night; steering, in general, a north-east direction, from three to four knots an hour.

19*th*.—Wind more favourable; going about six knots an hour. A flying fish lighted on the deck. We only saw these and Mother Cary's chickens. That singular little bird follows ships in southern and northern latitudes, and are supposed to appear more particularly before stormy weather.

20*th*.—Favourable wind in the night; passed two American vessels.

21*st*.—Breeze increased in the night; going sometimes at the rate of nine knots an hour; an American schooner made it a point to pass very close to us that morning.

22*d*.—Wind moderate, and not so fair; cold increasing much.

23*d*.—A heavy sea, and strong gale from the north by west, since about two P. M. the day before; making about six knots an hour; a strange ship a-head, sup-

posed to be one of the fleet we parted with; rained a good deal, and had several sudden squalls.

24*th.*—Weather moderate; wind west and by south; much sea-swell. Essex kept in company, though she was a dull sailer; and we were obliged to shorten, to keep together, sometimes.

25*th.*—Baffling winds, since noon, from the north-east by east, directly opposing our course; sea-swell much gone, so that we made a pleasant excursion to the Essex, and spent an hour or two with Captain Muirhead. That was a recreation of a most agreeable kind, after being confined to the limits of a ship for some time.

26*th.*—Moderate wind from the south; at twelve noon, making six knots an hour.

27*th.*—Continued to get on nearly as the day before. About two P. M. got very cloudy; wind variable for some time; squalls and rain from the north; split our main top-sail. Wind, at night, from the north-east; still squally; ship rolls and heaves very much; the bilge water, from rum and sugar, dreadfully offensive.

28*th.*—Weather much the same all night and that day; clouds heavy and stormy like, particularly to the north and east; wind directly against us.

30th.—Since the evening of the 28th, we had severe gales, heavy seas, and ship so strained, by the dashing of strong seas, as well as making way into the ship, that our situation had been hazardous. About noon, it subsided in some degree; high breezes and heavy swell continued, but shipping less water. Our progress from eight to nine knots an hour. Dead lights kept up in the cabin, so that we had only candle light in it. Saw a turtle floating on the water as we passed. A Newfoundland sea-bird soared, for a considerable time, round the ship, though we were believed to be three hundred miles from land.

May 1st.—Getting on, with a moderate breeze, from four to five knots an hour; in sight of two strange sail, supposed to be merchant ships; getting on rapidly, at about eleven knots an hour. In the morning, a rainbow made its appearance: on that occasion, superstitious as sailors generally are, they say,

A rainbow in the morning,—
Sailors take warning!

The evening was remarked also to shew us one. The sailors then say,

A rainbow at night
Is a sailor's delight.

2d.—Under light but fair winds in the night; calm

for some time in the morning. About eight A. M. a fair wind from the south-east; making seven knots an hour; two strange suspicious ships in sight; in company with the Essex.

3d.—Blew very hard in the night; continued to do so to-day. At noon, a gale of wind, with heavy rain; ship labouring very hard; making and shipping a great deal of water. At one P. M. came on a heavy squall, with rain; split the fore and main top-sail with a dreadful crash; mizen stay-sails also went; at the same time, the tiller of our helm broke; ship broached to, when the fore-sail went to pieces. After removing tables, and all fixtures in the cabin, got below it to the tiller; employed getting the spare tiller fitted in the great cabin; and, at three P. M. got it completely ready. Essex parted company. At night, gale continued; ship lay-to all night.

4th.—At five o'clock A. M. weather more moderate; we looked like a wreck; every thing like stock, goats, &c. stowed on deck, had been swept away; our gang-way broke down, &c.

6th.—Moderate weather, and a westerly breeze, making upwards of six knots an hour, comparatively a pleasant state to that we were in on the 3d (Sunday); description must be unequal to the awful scene which we had then to witness, and feel the horrors of. It was

bad enough below decks; but, looking up to the surrounding elements, it was only to be wondered at, when we contemplated the appearance of mountains of impetuous seas beating all around us, how the ship could float for a minute longer. It was an additional crisis, when the tiller broke, and the ship had *to broach to*, under no controul of human art. Had one of those heavy seas struck her side, we must have been overset, and all consigned to that fate which is sooner or later the inevitable lot of man.

While such exertions were making by the greater part of the crew, as circumstances called for, a few of them refused to come from below. A Dutchman who came forward, put me in mind of the grave-digger in Hamlet. He was pulling off his numerous coverings with considerable coolness; said it was all one, and of no use; nothing could save us; but, after having uncovered, set to work as earnestly as any of them.

Captain Taylor's efforts and steadiness could not escape the admiration of any man on board. Mr Dickson, first mate, was fortunately bred a carpenter. In making necessary exertions to remove every thing to get at the tiller, and in conducting other operations below, while Captain Taylor took charge on the deck, we had every thing done for us, which skill in seamanship, and other exertions, were likely to afford.

7th.—A favourable wind; but squally and stormy in the night, and early that morning; kept back very

much by the destruction made among our rigging; all hands at work in repairing sails, rigging, and whatever had been injured; got on at seven and a half knots an hour.

8th.—Had a steady good breeze since noon from the west. Captain Taylor computed our distance from Scilly, yesterday at noon, to be 1070 miles; passed two ships steering as we did; some signals made and answered; got fast a-head of them, at about nine knots an hour.

9th.—Fine and favourable weather.

10th.—Still got on well, about nine knots an hour. A marine invalid died yesterday of dropsy. It is to be regretted that, when this description of persons is put on board ship, diet of a nourishing fresh description is not secured to them. This is not the way in which our soldiers and sailors, reduced to bad health, should be treated; and it is firmly believed, that omission would be discovered in the inferior departments, if inquiry were instituted. It is not so with negroes!

11th.—Getting on pretty well with a breeze from the north-west; two or three gulls flew past the ship to-day. Our distance from the Scilly islands supposed to be two hundred and eighty miles, and eighty miles from soundings.

12th.—Variable squally weather, with showers; wind from the north and west. By two chronometers Captain Taylor had at work, he conceived our distance from Scilly to be between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and seventy miles; going eight knots an hour, under a steady breeze. A hail shower yesterday evening.

Our approaching prospects of getting ashore to our friends and countrymen are enlivening and comfortable. May we find nothing to damp them!

13th.—At seven o'clock in the morning, while walking pensively on the quarter-deck, the topmast man hailed us with LAND;—a welcome annunciation indeed, producing mutual congratulation and shaking of hands. In our fellow passenger, Mr L. the tidings produced transports of joy; and every heart was full of the near prospect we contemplated of again treading the soil of our native shores. Some fishing-boats from Scilly near us. At ten A. M. in sight of the main land. In our progress up Channel, have not met with any of our own cruisers, or seen any of them: That must be blameable. Made one hundred and ninety-five miles since yesterday noon, to that day at the same hour.

14th.—Becalmed most of the night. A boat from Torbay came off to us; and three of the passengers engaged her to land us at Brixham for two guineas each. Left the Phœnix with a salute of three cheers;

and got comfortably ashore in two hours after. The master or crew could not give us any news; but a dreadful shock was conveyed, when the newspapers informed us that an excellent minister, and good man, Mr Perceval, had fallen a few days before by a vile assassin.

Where comfort is desired, and to avoid an unwholesome nuisance, it is conceived that ships laden with sugar and rum form a bilge liquor much more offensive than a vessel outward to these islands with dry goods. The packet is, therefore, a better conveyance from the West Indies, particularly in peaceable times. While this remark is considered but candid, the same principle requires that the passengers should acknowledge the civility and good treatment they experienced of Captain Taylor, in every respect so satisfactory, that the writer has also to bear testimony to some acts of subsequent friendship, he must ever reflect on with sentiments of gratitude.

17*th*.—Arrived at London; from which place these memorandums commenced about fourteen years before.

The feelings experienced after arriving there point out the propriety of resorting to Cheltenham after coming from the West Indies. The salutary action of these waters on the alimentary passage, and peculiarly on the biliary organs, are such as to dissipate sensations of mind and body on arrival from the West Indies, which

cannot in general be thrown off otherwise; and where formation of hepatic disease is to be feared, these waters and the climate will have a tendency to remove them.

We are disposed to repine at the unavoidable incidences of life; and it was a subject of grievance to me, that it was not in my power to carry home more of those hard-earned savings of mine while in the West Indies. On this it is proper to record, that, on my arrival at London, the few bills I had were placed in the hands of a private banker, where they were conceived to be perfectly secure; but I had not been many weeks in my native country, when it was announced that the house had failed.

If it had been, as I conceived, my fortunate lot to have carried my all, after payment of debts, from Jamaica to Britain, I should have lodged the whole in that house. This is an instance of the precarious foundation upon which our vain wishes and policy often rest.

In *July*, I once more had the inexpressible happiness of embracing that family in which my cares and affections are so deservedly confided, among a numerous and respectable society of friends and relatives, in my native country.

It is impossible for me to contemplate the goodness

of Providence towards us without feelings of devout and humble gratitude. How seldom does it occur that, after carrying a wife to the West Indies, and having only two children, after so long a residence there, we should all return from it, without losing one life. It is almost unprecedented, where the hand of death deals such destruction among Europeans!

ON THE

INFLUENZA,

AS IT OCCURRED AT JAMAICA,

In 1802, 1807, and 1808.

AN

ESSAY

ON THE

ENDEMIA CATARRHALIS PNEUMONICA,

WHICH PREVAILED IN JAMAICA IN 1802.

PART I.

Introductory Remarks.

JAMAICA, ST THOMAS IN THE VALE.

In attempting to connect my narrative with that desire to render it useful, which the nature of such a work may admit of, it has been conceived that the disease which is vulgarly known under the designation of *Influenza*, of such destructive consequences to negro population, would be more properly treated as a distinct article at the conclusion of the work.

At various periods of its prevalence in former times, an opinion was entertained, that from the stars proceeded a morbid influence which produced the disease,—thence originated its name, Influenza. But as such an erroneous operation cannot be admitted, we have adopted an appellation more descriptive of its nature, in that of *Endemia Catarrhalis Pneumonica,* or Epidemic Catarrhous Pleurisy.

For further information on catarrhus and pneumonia, the professional reader is referred to Cullen's *Synopsis,* volume ii. p. 98 and 172.

The history of medicine affords us numerous instances of the prevalence of this disease; and it has become a subject of inquiry by very eminent professional men. But it is not within the purposes of this inquiry to enter diffusely upon that part of its character.

In the year 1782, several papers appeared in the *Edinburgh Medical Essays,* a publication conducted at that time with great ability, industry, and advantage. In 1775, a number of the most respectable men in London instituted an inquiry. Those of the first abilities in other parts becomingly followed the example; and we find, in the *London Medical Observations* of that year, some excellent and curious details of those circumstances which are worthy of notice in this extraordinary disease.

Its several accessions, during my residence in Jamaica, have thrown little more light on the remote causes producing it; but, on the principles which Dr Fothergill has so ably laid down for inquiry, my observations,

such as they are, shall not be withheld, when it is believed that its occurrence in a tropical climate has added many critical symptoms to it; and, therefore, means to obviate these must be suggested, which, though imperfect, the public of Jamaica are well entitled to.

Progress and Duration.

In April 1802, it was first discovered at Port-Royal, where all our shipping touch in their way up to Kingston, and are frequently boarded by a few individuals. The disease extended rapidly to Kingston, and the lowlands of Liguanea, &c. About 17th May, many of the lowland properties of St Thomas in the Vale were affected. The mountain plantations, such as Williamsfield, Rio Magno, Phillipsburgh, Pear Tree Grove, &c. afforded fewer instances; and it was singular that, though in a more temperate and cooler atmosphere, the disease appeared under more favourable circumstances than on the lowland properties, such as Tulloch, Byebrook, Knollis', and Wakefield; the temperature of the air was less variable than common at this season of the year. At seven in the morning, Farenheit's stood generally seventy-two degrees; at noon eighty-two degrees. North winds more frequently prevailed; no rain for some time; sea breezes set in about the 25th June; fewer cases appeared after. About the 10th July, we had a sudden accession of north winds; and from that date we had no new cases of the epidemic.

Those persons who possess local acquaintance of the

parish of St Thomas in the Vale, or who will look over that track of properties from Bog Walk, past Knollis's, upwards to Pear Tree Grove, without crossing from the Crawl estate, the Rio Magno Gully, will find, in such a map as Robertson's, some curious facts on the progress of this disease.

Tulloch estate was first observed to have some cases. Dovehall soon followed; and, being the neighbouring estate, contagion might be supposed to exercise its influence. Shenton was next affected; it having passed over (if I may use such language) Knollis's and Prospect. Hoghole was suffering severely; but Newhall, an estate very near it, was free of it for a fortnight after. Hyde, though surrounded on every side by it, did not suffer for three weeks after Prospect and others; but when it came on, every circumstance of severity was much the same as in other places.

It must be manifest, that such a disease, operating on persons of various constitutions, would be of corresponding progress and duration; though the fourth, fifth, or sixth day, may be mentioned as the extreme, on either side, of critical symptoms.

Character and Symptoms.

Its antecedent appearance at Port-Royal, which is a dry peninsular neck of land, surrounded nearly by the sea, and thus refreshed by its regular breezes, would afford reasons to apprehend that it had been brought to us by contagion. Several circumstances have been

produced in support of this opinion, and its slow progressive advance to the interior, its earlier influence on properties not so refreshed by cool breezes, would incline us to subscribe to its contagious character. But, under the former head, there are incidental remarks, which shew that it must be admitted as an epidemic; and nothing occurred in its progress so decidedly to confirm its contagious nature.

I am not, however, disposed to deny that several circumstances concurred to afford it an infectious character; and some observations were published in the St Jago Gazette, about the time, to establish that opinion.

It was introduced with chilliness, succeeded by fever; a rapid full pulse; extreme thirst; hot and dry skin; heaviness, and much oppression of the head and chest; dry cough; pain of head, extending over the eyes and along the nape of the neck; vessels of the eye turgid; disposition to avoid light; serous discharge from the nostrils, increasing as the disease advanced; throat inflamed; expectoration difficult.

These symptoms were generally observed on its accession in persons of general healthy and vigorous constitution; in those of a different description, such as weakly or relaxed habits, it was ushered in with symptoms of what at first might appear a milder type, though, in these, we had to combat a greater extent of danger.

In pregnant women, the disease often brought on abortion, and many died with peritonial inflammation;

but, in females thus circumstanced, it was on every occasion extremely dangerous.

Females who laboured under chlorosis, *mal de estomac*, and that deficiency of red blood which attends on such persons, the Mungola and Angola negroes of either sex, seldom recovered.

Its rapid progress, and epidemic character, were testified on Newhall estate, where scarcely a negro escaped the prevalent course of disease. Out of about two hundred and forty belonging to it, ninety patients had been laid up at a time. It proceeded with a rapidity on that estate, after its first commencement, which nothing but the greatest exertions of all concerned could have fully and fairly met. It is due to the liberal proprietor, William Mitchell, Esquire, to add, that abundant and expensive supplies were sent for recovery and comfort of the sick, whenever pointed out as necessary for them.

Remote Causes.

It has been stated already, that we have looked in vain for the remote causes of this disease.

The kind of weather under which it made its appearance, and subsequently disappeared, has been noticed, likewise other circumstances, to establish its epidemic or contagious nature.

A perusal of my narrative will convince the reader that negro diseases are aggravated by those irregular

and dissipated habits, which, in their present uncivilized state, belong to them; and where it was introduced after debauchery, night travelling, consequent exposure to wet and cold, every circumstance accompanying it became more dangerous; and my information justifies me in stating, many lives were lost that, in other circumstance, would have terminated favourably.

At West Prospect estate, where the disease prevailed, several persons, standing at the overseer's house, were sensible of unpleasant vapours floating in the air, but at first concluded they might proceed from dead rats. As a sea breeze was then blowing, we were sensible that they had impregnated and injured its salutary influence; and, on examining a dried up pond, to windward of the house, large chasms were found at its bottom, from whence a cadaverous offensive effluvia proceeded.

In 1776, Dr J. Fothergill remarks the uncommonly equal temperature of the atmosphere in Cheshire in summer. He says,—"In the space of two months, the mercury in the thermometer once rose to sixty-eight, once fell to fifty-six, but, for six weeks together, it kept between sixty and sixty-six continually day and night; the barometer did not vary much more. The weather very changeable, inclining to wet; rain scanty; it sunk into the ground as it fell, and made the earth soft and miry; seldom swelled the rivers, brooks, or occasioned floods."

Dr F. adds,—"To the consideration of the faculty of this city, the sketch of the late epidemic is submitted,

with all due deference; and with a request that, if the observations they have made do not correspond with the recital, they will be pleased to communicate their remarks, while the remembrance of the facts are recent, in order that an exact account of this disease as possible may be transmitted to our successors. If those physicians, into whose hands this essay may come, will be so obliging as to mention the time when the epidemic made its appearance in this neighbourhood, and wherein it differed from the preceding sketch, either in the symptoms or method of cure, they will likewise contribute to the same good purpose. The united observations of the faculty at large must greatly exceed the utmost efforts of an individual, however warmly he may be disposed to promote the utility of his profession."

Such sentiments speak for themselves, and fully justify the length of the extract from Dr Fothergill's recital. Sir George Baker, Baronet, says,—"Men, confined by their business at home, suffered much less than those who were exposed to the air. Girls, at school, on account of their greater confinement (I suppose), were remarkably free from the influence of this constitution, at least were not so generally attacked. A diarrhœa followed the catarrhous state, which was my own case."

Sir John Pringle, Baronet, says,—"It is right to observe the state of the weather; but conceives that the sensible qualities of the air had no share in producing the disease. I should be tempted to say, that they had

evidently no part; for we hear of the same distemper being in Italy, France, and the Low Countries, and, I doubt not, in other parts of Europe. But it cannot be supposed that the state of the atmosphere, either as to weight, heat, or moisture, was the same everywhere. There have been four such epidemics in my remembrance; that they do not depend on any principle we are yet acquainted with, but upon some others, to be investigated, and by such means as Dr Fothergill recommends, namely, the united inquiries of his brethren."

Dr William White, of York, says,—"The epidemic was probably checked here by a sudden severe frost and snow. The thermometer, which had been for some time between forty and fifty degrees, fell, in one night's time, to twenty-two degrees; and continued for some days below the freezing point. The thermometer is one of Farenheit's, in a garden behind my house, having an open exposure to the south-west."

Dr Haygarth, of Chester, says,—"As far as may be concluded from our observation, it appears that there were fewer in the higher than in the lower ranks of society affected. In the Abbey Square, inhabited by persons who live in ease and affluence, only seventy-three out of ninety-seven were attacked; that is, scarcely more than three in four. At the Cross, inhabited by people in trade, that compose the middle rank, one hundred and nine out of one hundred and fourteen had the disease; that is, nearly eighteen in nineteen: whereas, in the House of Industry, not one escaped out of one hundred and seventy-five. I saw it accompany

measles, consumption, gout, scurvy, dropsy, jaundice, &c. Young children recover soonest."

In following up the progress of this disease, we remarked, that when its first appearance was detected, dry weather and north winds prevailed. Considerable chasms were observed in the earth, from whence unhealthy vapours escaped. Though in May we had some rain, they were too light to constitute any material change in the atmosphere; sea-breezes were light and trifling. In June, sea-breezes set in with considerable strength; at the same time, the disease was modified in severity and frequency. On the 10th of July, we had pretty strong north breezes; after which, no more recent cases were discovered.

It appears to me, that though we are not yet arrived at that competent knowledge of remote causes which we would desire to attain, there are powerful reasons to believe that, to a certain constitution of the atmosphere, may we attribute the formation of this disease.

Epidemic diseases, such as small-pox, measles, &c. spread over Europe, and other parts of the world; and it is not necessary to produce their prevalence, that the sensible qualities of the atmosphere, in all these countries, should possess the same specific character. We are too much in the dark yet to reason so closely; and I shall only add, on this head, that, on the supposition of contagion from America, we do not find evidence that such an affection existed there about the same time.

Those persons who were of sedentary habits, and, from the nature of their occupations, were less out of doors, suffered little from the disease. Whites were not so subject to it in an aggravated shape. A few children only were affected; and they went through it easily.

It is deserving of our notice, on the prevalence of such a disease, to examine that state of good health, or the reverse, which existed for several months before; and, as malignant properties may be said to have extended only to negroes, any remarks arising from these sources may be confined exclusively to them.

In January, the weather was exceedingly cold, and sometimes rainy. In February, cold norths continued, but little rain; thermometer so low as fifty-four degrees. In March, warmer, but north winds prevailed; and it may be observed that, in this month, an epidemic disease appeared among horned cattle, of a destructive nature.

In April, the first appearances of an epidemic in man was discovered.

The extreme coldness and humidity of the months of January and February, the influence of north winds in March, have commonly severe effects on negroes. Cold and humidity they cannot support. Complaints hung over industriously disposed negroes for some time, before they would complain; and we had reason to believe that many cases became more critical owing to these circumstances. This is confirmed to a certain extent by an universal observation, that those labouring in

the field, had it more severely than domestics, tradesmen, &c. on estates.

In January and February, weather was extremely adverse to vegetation. In March we had no rain to promote it; and north winds prevailed. In other circumstances of weather, vegetation would have been vigorous in March, and we should have probably enjoyed a good state of health with it; but, such as it has been, we conceive, in this country, that a morbid influence is thus constituted, and we generally suffer disease in some shape or other.

Negroes exposed to such weather as we had in January, February, and March, were in a condition of peculiar susceptibility to disease, as has been already observed. Its aggravated type proceeded from the concurring operations of these, and the continued action of that atmosphere to which they were exposed in their field labours.

It may be remarked here, that medical attendants on properties would discharge a most important duty, if, on such and other occasional seasons, they would personally visit the respective gangs while at work, and, with minute pains, examine every countenance, to discover whether appearances indicate present or approaching indisposition, and to hear any individual who is desirous to state his ailments.

I am aware that such an injunction to professional men may seem at first unequal to the purposes it professes; but I am sure that there are no gentlemen who have enter-

ed with a sense of duty on practice, for a short time, but will see that what I have proposed is practicable, and, on many occasions, might be the means of saving useful lives.

Prognosis.

What has been already delivered will enable the reader, in a great measure, to judge of the prognosis which a practitioner can give in this disease.

It must depend on the state of the patient's constitution when attacked by it, the stage at which an active and judicious treatment has been instituted, and a due observance of other circumstances already premised.

Means of Cure.

So strongly was it impressed on my mind how much an early attack against this disease was of importance, that, in our country plantation practice, an entry was made in the hospital books of the preliminary treatment to be followed before the presence of the practitioner could be procured. They were substantially,—That the patient should be immediately bled; to have the warm bath, where it could be administered in such circumstances as to be useful; to procure an active purgative effect, from a mixture of Glauber's or Epsom salts, combined with an antimonial, to determine to the surface of the body. While these were using, the attendance

of the medical practitioner might be secured in due time.

On the first and important measure of bleeding, the existence of this epidemic has unfortunately produced some difference of opinion; but experience has decided in favour of bleeding; and, where early acted upon, it seldom if ever failed to prove an important and indispensible indication of cure.

Dr Haygarth, of Chester, observed, in 1775, while this disease prevailed,—"In one case, a female at seventy-five; breathing was laborious from suppressed cough; and the relief from bleeding was so manifest and immediate, that it convinced both myself and patient that this remedy snatched her out of the jaws of death."

At West Prospect estate, I was called to an old looking woman, by no means of a vigorous constitution, from fifty to sixty years of age, named Phœbe, a driveress. She was in extreme agony; and though her appearance did not discover the propriety of taking much blood from her, it was at the same time evident that no other remedy could save her. As we proceeded, however, she bore it well; her respiration got easier; and we took away about forty ounces. Her subsequent treatment consisted of a blister to the part which gave pain in her side, laxative and diaphoretic medicines. She had a rapid recovery, without those feverish symptoms which often succeeded that stage, wherein depletion was so directly indicated.

When bleeding was delayed, and an ardent fever

combined to produce critical symptoms, we had recourse to it with much less confidence. When the blood was found of a diluted kind, coagulating partially or imperfectly, separating a large proportion of serum, and without a buffy coat, it was of no use to bleed; and the patient often was lost. It is, at the same time, but fair to add, that where the disease was early discovered, and treated, as I have mentioned, by early bleeding, evacuants, and other means, to be noticed, I did not lose a single patient of that constitution which could bear the loss of blood.

Unless a decisive effect was produced by these, large blisters were applied to the pained parts of the chest, and near them. Where fever was unyielding, a blister to the nape of the neck was found efficacious. The head was sometimes so severely affected that it was shaved and blistered. Rubefacients or blisters were used to the extremities on urgent occasions. We were materially assisted with our indications of cure by shaving and blistering the head. Topical pains were relieved, and fever often entirely removed.

While increased determination to the bowels and surface of the body was kept up by laxative and antimonial medicine, nitrous and dimulcent drinks, inhaling vinegar and water steam, by means of Mudge's inhaler, the *lac ammoniacum* with squill had good effects in promoting their usual purposes.

When we conceived the inflammatory affection to be subdued by bleeding, and other means mentioned, pulse became sometimes feeble, and langour ensued. In that

state; we found the camphorated julap, with nitrous æther, squills, and antimonial solution, a most useful medicine.

It may be imagined that the warm bath has escaped notice. But we have to lament how much we ought to be aware of its abuse on plantations. The management of some hospitals is so bad, that the want of subsequent comfort, to give to this excellent remedy its due influence in subduing disease, is an insuperable objection to it; and, on that account, the practitioner should direct or avoid it, conformably to these circumstances. On those estates where we could have recourse to it, the most manifest benefit was derived from it

Those persons whose constitutions did not admit of bleeding at all, or of small quantity, general and topical, on account of an atonic state of the system, were treated by successive blisters. Pills, composed of calomel, opium, and assafœtida gum, were found extremely useful in opposing a state of nervous irritation, which seemed to accompany this constitution. In other respects than bleeding, and the necessity of more tender medicines, indications were the same.

Though calomel was freely given, and it is believed had a salutary operation in general, ptyalism was not brought on in any case under our care.

In that state of weakness, consequent to its nature and treatment, there was added a disposition to intermittent fever. We had recourse to snake-root and quassia as a tonic; but it was found that bark in de-

coction, and in several cases in the powder, paying due attention to the bowels, was more efficacious.

In those cases where death ensued from want of early assistance, the thoracic viscera were found in an incipient state of gangrene, from inflammation; the bronchiæ choked up by a viscid mucus of a darkish colour; and effusion of water in one or both cavities of the chest.

Those of an atonic constitution, such as chlorotic women, negroes disposed to or labouring under *mal de estomac*, dirt-eaters, &c. died more generally. Their lungs were found pale and flaccid; effusion had probably existed before, but now increased, until the unfortunante sufferer was really suffocated.

PART II.

At Spanish Town.

In December 1807, the early part of the month was dry. North and sea breezes prevailed in an irregular manner; temperature of the air such as has been generally observed at that season.

About 10th of the month, a catarrhal complaint pretty generally appeared in Kingston and the neighbourhood; but reports did not state it to be attended by any pneumonic complication.

About the 14th, the disease was extending itself here; and, by the 22d, many persons had undergone its influence.

Kingston is about thirteen miles distant from that place; and there is an unceasing intercourse between both towns.

The patient was commonly seized with sense of general fullness about the head; a tickling soreness of the throat; dry cough; slight fever, and laborious breathing; expectoration very difficult, of an uncommonly viscid, dirty, yellow colour, exhausting very much in any attempt to spit it out. From the nostrils and eyes there was a little discharge, which, in its advanced stages, assumed a crusty dark appearance; countenance looked puffed; light was unpleasant to the eyes.

In the aged, it was more severe than in those at the prime of life, and at an earlier stage; but in young children it was very severe. In my son, among the first affected, diarrhœa was considerable; great oppression in respiration, and fever.

In my own case, exposure to that state of weather which caused the disease, protracted it beyond its usual duration; and though the urgency of my duties could not well admit of being laid up, the disease was of a heavy loathsome description, which impaired the mental faculties.

23d.—In the evening the weather became cloudy, after considerable heat. We felt increased humidity of the air; a smart shower followed.

26th.—Plentiful rain; air cooler; disease continued to extend itself.

29th.—We had extremely warm oppressive weather yesterday afternoon; it was cooler in the evening; and during last night we had a plentiful rain.

30th.—Rained a great deal last night; winds in general at this season from the north; seldom any sea breezes.

At Mr Rodon's Mountain, I visited some negroes, who had indulged themselves in those excesses usual at the Christmas holidays, while labouring under disease. That valuable time had been lost when our aid could be of use; and the mortality was dreadful there.

January 1*st*, 2*d*, and 3*d*, 1808.—Heavy rains. The disease extremely fatal, in those who had unfortunately concealed their complaints, to indulge in excesses which were formerly injurious in 1802. Death ensued, from the fifth to the seventh day.

6th.—Many cases coming under our care, and with additional malignant symptoms. The alarm produced has brought the sick under medical treatment at an earlier stage of its invasion.

Considerable nervous irritation appears to be combined with the present epidemic; and, unless blood letting is resorted to at an early stage of the disease, it is suspected that it will do harm. Early congestion and decomposition are said to have been discovered. These circumstances indicate the expediency of early bleeding; and shew how soon that important season de-

parts from us, in which we can expect to snatch the sufferer from death.

A gentleman of great respectability became extremely unhappy at the loss of some of his fine negroes, and got exceedingly nervous. In these circumstances, the epidemic laid hold of him. Every remedy failed; and he died about the seventh day.

7th.—Same kind of weather; some recent cases came under our care that day.

9th.—Weather as before; wind northerly; colder; no rain.

In the case of *Beneba*, at Ellis's Caymanas; she contracted the disease four days before; yet its circumstances were such that I bled her freely. That care usual on the estate to the necessities of the sick was strictly observed; and she got well in course of a week more. *Mingo's* case, on the same estate, was similar to that of *Beneba*, and did well.

On the Farm penn, where general instructions were given until the practitioner could arrive, bleeding was universally resorted to, upon the disease being discovered; and that subsequent attention, so peculiarly called for, was rendered with great promptitude and effect by Mr M'Kerlie, the overseer.

10th.—No change.

11th.—Some appearances of rain. At Cumberland penn, a swampy situation, about two miles from the sea, negroes are employed in wet grass lands, and carrying flats with grass to Kingston. The epidemic found its way there as soon as at Kingston; but much milder

than at any other place in the vicinity. Bleeding was not even considered necessary; and every case did well.

15*th.*—No change in weather, only norths rather colder. We had fewer cases of the epidemic.

16*th.*—No recent case.

18*th.*—Mr S.'s *Sam*, a recent case.

19*th.*—At the Grange penn, the property of John Fuller, Esquire, no case of the epidemic occurred; and it was the only property in this neighbourhood that escaped.

21*st.*—A heavy rain from the north. Disease less frequent.

February 9.—Since the 21st ult. the disease has been only known in a few instances. In no case has it proved fatal, but that which follows.

Nelson, a negro boy, of about seventeen, was taken ill on Saturday the 6th instant, with aggravated symptoms of the epidemic. His breathing was extremely labourious. The arterial system seemed to be severely agitated; pulse quick, irregular, sometimes full, and at others feeble. Complained of pains of his chest, extending to the sides and over the abdomen. He died about twelve o'clock noon on the 8th.

Dissection.

On opening the chest, we found in both cavities of it a considerable effusion of water; but in the left side a larger quantity than in the right. Both lobes of the

lungs were more livid than usual. The pericardium was unusually enlarged by the fluid it contained. On puncturing it, about a pint was discharged. Surrounding the heart, a considerable quantity of coagulable lymph had formed. The heart was extremely red and inflamed. Its coronary vessels larger, and distended with blood to an unusual degree.

The liver was sound, only its left lobe was a little enlarged; other appearances were natural.

The above, and several other cases which have occurred, incline me to believe that this dreadful epidemic had its origin in inflammatory disease of the heart itself; and that the pulmonic appearances of morbid influence are an effect of that cause which existed in the most important organ of life.

In those cases of previous occurrence to the Christmas holidays, the treatment successfully followed in the year 1802 was fully equal to cure the epidemic; but its formidable type, in consequence of excesses committed at that time, on very many occasions, rendered all our efforts ineffectual. The inflammatory or incipient stage was violent and rapid. Its duration depended on the constitution it invaded; but more frequently it lasted from twenty-four to thirty-six hours. Extreme marks of debility followed, in which depletion by bleeding was inadmissible. Pulse became quick, irregular, and feeble; breathing continued laborious, but the patient did not complain of pain; senses got impaired; ineffectual efforts were made to expectorate; discharge from the nose got darker, and even offensive;

countenance hippocratic; in the horizontal position, a suffocating sensation obliged the attendants to raise up the patient to a sitting posture; heat of body varied; frequent cold clammy sweats; and, about the fourth day, it was generally fatal. The few who got better recovered slowly; and we had to guard against hydropic affections.

In several cases after the Christmas holidays, negroes, in previous high health, were known to come to their masters or overseers to complain; and, in doing so, dropt dead before them. I am informed that the *bronchiæ* were found obstructed by blood and phlegm, so as to interrupt the possibility of respiration going on. I am not able to be more minute, for these cases occurred in distant and remote parts from the scene of my practice.

A gentleman of great professional respectability in St Ann's told me that he had lost almost all his domestics; the disease proving fatal between the first and third day.

In those suddenly fatal cases, I am not enabled to follow up any discussion, for none of them occurred in my own practice; but dissection afforded the appearances above stated.

The perplexing nature of the epidemic in its most violent type was frequently complicated with metastasis. When the practitioner was flattering himself that he had done a great deal to subdue the complaint, and with reasons to believe himself successful, the disease seemed suddenly to move to either the head, bowels, kidneys, &c.

Such was the universal prevalence of this epidemic, that though it is our duty to mark every circumstance of weather, so as to arrive at the causes of its existence, on this occasion, it does not appear improbable that it exhausted itself: for, while it lasted about two months, we scarcely found an individual who had not undergone it.

On the 21st of January, we find that a material change took place in the weather, attended by a north wind; and, in that epidemic which we had in 1802, on the 10th of July, we had sudden accession of north winds; after which, no recent cases made their appearance.

The reader who has taken the trouble to peruse what has been said of negroes, will find to what dreadful excesses they resort for three days at Christmas; and the epidemic had unfortunately commenced soon after the 10th of December.

Its approach, therefore, suggested gloomy apprehensions in every considerate, interested, and humane mind. To deny their gratifications, would be considered an invasion of their rights, which might lead to unpleasant consequences; but their inconsiderate, indeed I may say inconsistent character, is such, that, rather than lose any part of their enjoyments, they would conceal disease; and, as has too fatally happened, every circumstance of the epidemic was rendered more malignant after these holidays.

Excessive drinking; sudden transitions from heat to cold, after the indulgence of their violent passions; want of rest; night travelling in libidinous and jealous

pursuits, in the gratification of visits to their numerous wives, are such manifest sources of aggravated disease, that it is unnecessary to dwell on them longer.

In a representation of circumstances so fatal to our negro population in the West Indies, feelings of humanity and interest concur to deplore that condition of moral turpitude, which has proved the source of so many evils to that devoted country.

It is not, therefore, unconnected with this inquiry again to observe, that those pains which have been too sparingly bestowed on negroes, to instruct them in the practice of Christian principles, have been followed by such success, as to convince us that, by a wisely directed system, enforced only by the exemplary conduct of whites in religious matters, we might see them governed in their habits by rules, which would render them better servants, population increasing, and many of the diseases so destructive at present would be little known.

Polygamy is one of the most prominent and injurious circumstances connected with their present situation. Increasing population is incompatible with such a condition in any country; and other evils, emanated and diffused by this source, may be readily comprehended from what has been already stated.

Since it was considered by European legislators that humanity called for abolition of the African slave trade, our colonies cannot be supplied with labourers, but by combined efforts to preserve the health and lives of those we have, and to encourage the rearing of chil-

dren, on the rational and only sure foundations already pointed out in my narrative.

The last case we met with occurred on the 5th of March. Though it was a solitary instance at that time, its symptoms and mode of accession left no doubt on my mind that it was brought into action by those sources which had produced the epidemic at an earlier period in others.

Mr J. W.'s *Tabba*, a vigorous young woman, fell down in the street, on account of an acute pain in the left side that overpowered her (as the people about her said); breathing evidently intermitted from extreme pain; her pulse varied, being sometimes full, at others small and irregular. It appeared that the heart was imperfectly performing its functions. She was conveyed to a neighbouring house; a vein was opened in the arm; it bled slowly; the other arm was tied up also, and a vein opened. Though both bled slowly at first, in about eight minutes nearly thirty ounces of blood were taken away; a firm buffy coat soon formed, little serum was separated, and the coagulum was firm, in a cuplike shape, of a deep red colour. While the operation was going on she felt better, and disposition to syncope obliged us to stop the bleeding; but soon after the pain of left side, shooting through every part of it returned, with increased violence. She complained slightly in the morning.

She was directed to be carried to her own home, a short distance, in the most comfortable manner pos-

sible, to be put in a warm bath. After time was given to go through these operations, I called, and found her a little easier. An assafœtida opening enema was administered, which operated; a large blister applied to the left side; a mixture of Epsom salts with antimonial wine was given to operate by the skin and bowels more particularly.

March 6th.—In the morning, considerably relieved; medicines had their full effect.

Sixteen grains of antimonial powder and two scruples of nitrate of potass were mixed, and divided in four powders, one to be taken every four hours in wild liquorice or cachew gum infusion.

In the evening, much better; cataminia came on; powders to be continued.

7th.—Better in the morning; but complained at night of slight pain in the side, with a sensation like *globus hystericus.*

Of spirits of vitriolic æther and volatile aromatic spirits each two drams, antimonial wine one dram, tincture of assafœtida half an ounce; mix them, and let a tea-spoonful be taken three times a day in valerian tea.

8th.—Had slight oppression in breathing; complained of tendency to costiveness. A dose of castor oil was taken; and to continue the drops.

In the evening, some enlargement of the axillary glands (extending below them) of the left side; blister very sore; bowels open; pulse, &c. natural; and altogether better, in regard to inward pain.

9th. Complained of the blister only.
10th.—Free of complaint; and got well.

Treatment.

In connecting an account of the epidemic of 1802 and 1807-8, it has been already observed that, before the Christmas holidays, we were successful in treating the complaint by that method to which we resorted in 1802.

After that time, we could have no doubt that the disease was the same, aggravated to a most malignant degree, by causes sufficiently obvious. The rules, therefore, which follow, may be understood as directed to that type which fell under our care after the 24th December 1807.

That variety of constitution which became subjects of this disease, required the exercise of that discriminating judgment, and professional knowledge, which should belong to every man who attempts the treatment of diseases incident to the human frame; and, in the preliminary remedy of blood-letting, those precautions, in respect to appearances, are strictly applicable.

After blood-letting to that extent, we immediately prescribed what was likely to act smartly, and effectually to remove any source of morbid irritation from the bowels, and, when indicated, to produce diaphoretic effects. But, as Dr Edwards, of St Thomas in the Vale, has justly observed,—" On many occasions perspiration was too profuse," we, therefore, gave medicines

to produce diaphoresis, or omitted them, as symptoms dictated to us.

The *aqua ammoniæ acetata*, added to purgative or other medicines, when required as a diaphoretic, was peculiarly useful.

Blisters were early applied to relieve topical pains; and, on some occasions, to keep up a successive stimulus. To promote expectoration, the *lac ammoniacum* was found efficacious, combined with squill vinegar. After sufficient evacuations, paregoric elixir was advantageously added to the mixture; and it appeared to diminish that nervous irritability, and disposition to spasm, we observed in the more malignant cases of this disease, besides soothing cough, &c.

The reader, who has perused my narrative, will know that there are negroes of that description, who cannot bear much, or perhaps any, bleeding. In these cases, we had a difficult duty to discharge: blisters were much depended upon; and pills, composed of calomel, squill, opium, camphor, and assafœtida, were conceived to have a powerful influence in their favour.

Topical bleeding was sometimes useful.

Mercurial remedies were freely given, as alterative; and a few cases gave us reason to believe that, when ptyalism was brought on, a favourable change ensued.

Such persons as were neglected, or concealed their illness, often placed themselves, on that account, in circumstances more hopeless than the chlorotic or dirt-eating negroes; and their treatment was necessarily on

nearly similar principles. But these must be guided according to peculiarities of constitution, which the nature of this inquiry need not enter on; and it does not appear, on due consideration, that any important objects would be fulfilled by such an attempt.

The fox-glove (digitalis) was found an useful remedy, when blood-letting had been carried to its full extent, and where a disposition to dropsy manifested itself.

Those practitioners acquainted with the West Indies, are constantly aware that persons of bilious constitution, disposed to jaundice, or who are suspected to have any morbid disposition of the chylopoetic viscera, require not only larger doses of purgative medicine, but likewise that they should be of the mineral kind, combined with such as aloes, the *extractum catharticum*, and even gamboge. To produce such an effect from purgatives as will thoroughly remove any source of irritation from the bowels, is of peculiar moment in the treatment of almost every tropical disease. It is true that, in saline purgatives, combining antimonials with them prudently, we have generally found effects such as are desired; but, on some occasions, we have had recourse to those mentioned, because the others should not be depended on.

It was suggested by a gentleman of considerable eminence in London, who had formerly practised in the West Indies, that the glass of antimony would meet in a greater measure the indications of cure in this disease; but it appeared to those who were best acquainted with this medicine, that, in producing the exertion

of vomiting, where excessive plethora and inflammation existed, such an action would be possibly attended by various unpleasant consequences, even death. As a diaphoretic, it was not wanted in general; for profuse sweating seemed to be included in the characteristics of the epidemic. Its operation on the bowels was violent; and we found, in the expedients mentioned before, what appeared to meet our purposes better.

Having thus stated whatever information could be gathered from the observations of others, as well as what occurred in my own practice, in obedience to the persuasions of my mind, I will repeat an opinion, that to the violent excesses in which negroes are permitted to indulge are we to attribute the destructive type the epidemic assumed after 24th December 1807.

Though the effects of such habits are not constantly observed, yet it may be assumed that they are in a lesser degree in operation at all times. The system of polygamy, and other circumstances noticed in my narrative, produce a course of life inimical to their own comforts, the ruin of health, and fatal to population.

Measures, calculated to improve the moral and religious dispositions which might be made to form a part of the negro character, are so obviously the policy of those connected with the West Indies, laying aside other feelings, that I am persuaded, for the welfare of Jamaica, the work cannot be too soon undertaken, with that energy and enthusiasm worthy of such an object.

ON THE YAWS.

ON THE YAWS.

While pursuing my narrative, sufficient evidence has been brought forward to shew how desirable it is for all concerned in West India interests to reflect seriously on the immense losses they suffer, and the miseries which ensue to the unfortunate subjects of yaws, extending from generation to generation a most painful and ruinous disease.

The progressive improvement of our West India colonies in every point of political economy, and an increasing wish on every side to render the negroes more comfortable, must surely produce a corresponding improvement in what has a tendency to alleviate, if not remove entirely, that loathsome disease of which we are to treat. Every consideration conduces, whether humanity or interest is appealed to; and, by exercising the means of comfort and cure, we will blot out one of the remaining causes for imputation against both of these.

I have had much reason to render my acknowledgements to Dr Wright for information on various topics of a local nature with respect to the West Indies; and he kindly put into my possession a Dissertation on the Yaws, written by him many years since, which it must be regretted did not find more publicity among West India planters.

An anonymous writer, in 1744, Art. LXXVI. vol. vi. *Edinburgh Medical Essays*, had given to the public an excellent dissertation on yaws; the perusal of which must convey an opinion by no means favourable of posterity to this date, when the most melancholy evidence is presented, at almost every property, that no pains or study have been bestowed to alleviate or to remove the ravages of a disease so obviously, as I trust it will appear, within the power of medicine and care.

It must be confessed that expectations of improvement in the cure of yawy persons will more readily come within the sphere of an overseer's duty, and that of the medical practitioner, on account of the abolition having cut off supplies of negroes to the islands. &c.

The yaws is a disease of such a contagious character, that white people naturally feel a horror in exposing themselves to the risk of infection. It may be communicated by flies alighting from the yawy patient, and penetrating in the usual manner any part of the body, by which inoculation is effected; but I must acknowledge my doubts on the extent of this contagion in an equal degree to the whites as to African or Creole

negroes. White people may expose themselves with less risk than negroes. For some time after I went to Jamaica, the early impression entertained that, from neglected or ill-treated yaws, proceeded the miserable instances of bone-ache, decrepitude, &c. which presented themselves daily before me, I visited the yaws-house frequently on different properties, trying to get some of them put under the regular direction of the practitioner; but I found these attempts eventually unavailing; and gave them up, for reasons not within my controul or direction as practitioner on the estate.

Some few instances came within my knowledge of white persons being infected with yaws from sexual intercourse; and it is dreadful to imagine the hard fate to which such persons are condemned; but absolute exclusion from society of their own colour is necessary, until a cure is completed. It is additionally unfortunate that the evil does not cease there. A white person who has had yaws, ever after has an *onus* attached to him, affecting his dispositions particularly, should he feel inclined to form a connexion by marriage with any respectable female of the country.

It is, therefore, adviseable for gentlemen in charge of the sick department of properties to be aware of such dangers; and, if they visit the yaws-house, to have some covering over the face and hands to protect them against the consequences which might follow from a fly, having yawy fluid on it, alighting on and inoculating any part about the eyes, nose, lips, ears, &c. as these parts are obviously more readily susceptible of infection.

Dr Wright remarks, that "Dr Cullen places *Framboesia* (yaws) Class III. *Cachexiæ*, and Order III. *Impetigines*, next to *Lepra*; whereas it ought to have been arranged under *Exanthemata*, next to *Variola*; because, like the small-pox, it is taken by inoculation; and when a person once passes safely through the yaws, he cannot again be infected by any means whatsoever."

The experience which has fallen to my share in the West Indies, leads me to remark that, before the appearance of eruption, its approach is for several weeks marked by an appearance of lassitude and oppression, some degree of feverish heat occasionally, and that pure black colour, the index of health in negroes, is converted into a dirty look. It sometimes makes its appearance in slightly elevated spots, not larger than a pin's point, of a whitish yellow colour: these increase in number and size from that above described to a strawberry, when the edges become considerably elevated, forming an irregular circular or spherical shape, raised or depressed in the middle, containing little matter, and separating the cuticle frequently from its surface: *sordes* are then formed, and under them a small red fungus growing out of the *cutis*, increasing gradually to very different magnitudes, some less than the common wood strawberry, some as big as a raspberry, and others even exceeding the bigness of the largest mulberries, which berries they resemble, being knobbed as they are.

That description of the invasion of yaws will be much influenced by the state of health in which the subject is when attacked by it. The negro possessed of

health and vigour, particularly if a Creole, and of cleanly habits, unless exposed to contagion, there is reason to believe will never be affected with yaws. The negro who becomes infected, if vigorous, and in a state of general health otherwise, will throw out a full and large yawy eruption. The puny and unhealthy will have small and numerous eruptions, imperfectly formed, appear oppressed, heavy, and sickly; while the other description of negro will be found, after formation of the eruption, fit to undergo any thing which he could do before, were it not for the impropriety of exposing others in the field to contagion.

The eruptions have been known to be particularly troublesome about the anus and vagina; in other parts, their promiscuous appearance are without any rule which can be properly laid down.

When the disease attacks children, to prevent which mothers are extremely indifferent, it is more critical than in elderly persons; and many instances will be found where they are lost, or become miserable victims to it, owing to want of that system of treatment, which it is so sincerely wished may be adopted, to prevent such accumulated misery.

It was observed by the anonymous writer in the Medical Essays of Edinburgh, to which an allusion has been already made, "that the symptoms, in consequence of the yaws ill cured, coincide so exactly with the symptoms of an inveterate *French-pox*, and too promiscuous copulation of the negroes renders them so

liable to the venereal taint, that in most cases it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish them, especially if the patient has had both distempers, at any time in his life, before his present complaint."

The duration of yaws is extremely uncertain. Some persons have been known to recover from them in three or four months; others laboured under the disease for upwards of two years. The success of the first cases depended on a vigorous constitution, activity of mind, and attention to every care which could contribute to recovery. The latter occurred in careless negroes left too much to themselves, neglected and dirty in their habits; and such cases more probably terminated in the afflicting circumstances already mentioned of this disease.

Negroes well clothed and fed, possessing the comforts which a good master and their own industry ensure them, have every chance of going through the disease without suffering material inconvenience; but the *dirtily disposed good-for-nothing* negroes, (as their own colour call them), must have minute attention paid to them in every stage of the disorder.

I have known some instances where ill disposed mothers gave too much reason for suspicion that, to indulge their own idle habits, they put themselves in the way of getting infection to their infants, and gave themselves no trouble in trying to cure them. Such mothers should be obliged to wean their children, and the care of them transferred to trusty nurses; for, as the dan-

ger is greater in yaws to children, and more protracted, so the means of cure should be conducted, if possible, with greater attention.

Having thus stated some circumstances concerning this disease, with more regard to usefulness than in the order of a regular medical treatise for the exclusive use of professional men, I shall proceed, on the same plan, to submit what appears to me most likely to prove the means of cure, and to avert the miserable consequences of neglecting this disease.

There cannot exist a doubt but that, on every property in Jamaica, a yaws house should be erected; and I am decidedly of opinion, that going to a great expence for such a building is highly ridiculous. In every hospital for negroes in the West Indies, we ought to make them not less comfortable than a good negro house, and not much more so. Negroes are fond of warmth, particularly at night; and, in wet weather, durthe fall of the year, if they are in an open well ventilated hospital, as we would call it, they look shrunk up, and draw, if they can, to a little smoke or fire procured from a few sticks in the floor of a room. In their own houses, they have their snug warm fireside, and little air admitted to it. Yet such is the atmosphere and temperature they delight in, when the weather is wet and cold particularly.

The size of the hospital for yaws may be proportioned to the number of negroes on a property. The floors should be tiled or bricked, if not of wood. A warm bath cannot be dispensed with. A necessary may be

placed at some distance from the hospital, if possible, within the power of water; and the males must be separated from any intercourse whatever with the females also affected with the disorder.

The construction of the hospital should be commodious, and the practicability of cleanliness not omitted; the nurses or attendants may have houses within the inclosure that surrounds the building, though not within the yaws-house itself. They ought to be persons of decent character; and, as much of the success of cures depends on them, inducements should be certainly held out of rewards for successful and meritorious conduct.

The locality of yaw hospitals is deserving of great attention. The situation should be rather elevated, sheltered from the north wind, and free of marshy vapours. It is desirable to have them near a running stream of water, and, if possible, to have some subjects close by, whereon that labour which may be useful to them can be bestowed,—such as a plantain walk, or other ground provisions.

An establishment, such as a yaw hospital, distant from any other habitation, wherein the labour of patients would be so easily given, might be applied to the tasteful arrangement of fruit trees, and other ornamental productions, which materially contribute to the health of patients, and become useful to them, by producing abundance of fine fruit, such as the orange, mango, shaddock, avocado pear, jack tree, star-apple, pimento, tamarind, and others of beautiful shade, as the sand box-tree, &c.

The clothing of negroes under yaws must be of the woollen kind next to the skin; and a negro cannot with propriety have less than three suits, if we give due consideration to his comforts, or to the necessity there is for attention to cleanliness, to effect a cure within a reasonable time.

In the dietary necessary for patients under the yaws, an excellent resource is found in that country, on account of the abundant supply of esculent vegetables, which are either indigenous, or raised with little trouble. Though negroes are supplied with salted animal food on most properties, it ought to be now larger in quantity, and of the best kind, such as pickled pork, which, boiled up with vegetables, form an excellent nourishing broth, or pepperpot, as it is termed in that country.

Wine is appropriated by proprietors to the use of the sick; but I have seldom thought it necessary in yaws. The relaxed constitution, labouring under that disease, with an imperfectly formed eruption, may be allowed a tumbler of good rum toddy at bed-time; an article that has been found of considerable use in negro complaints, to which some antimonial drops may be added or omitted. Porter is found an excellent drink in cases of weak stomach; and in that view may be properly given.

During crop-time, the yawy patients ought by all means to be sufficiently supplied with hot liquor, that is, the juice of the cane, after undergoing the first boiling, and cleared of the impurities it contained. It has been already observed that, during crop-time, negroes are more healthy than at any other. That season might

remind the European of hay-making in Britain; for the animal spirits seem to be at a height more indicative of health, when there is good weather, and these operations going on, than at any other time of the year.

The disease is discovered in all those varieties which we can imagine, betwixt the relaxed inactive *good-for-nothing negroes*, and the vigorous healthy constitution. To the judgment of the practitioner, therefore, who sees and duly considers every circumstance of constitution, and the malignity or mild nature of the disorder, must be left that line of treatment necessary. Diet in all cases, however, may be said to include a great share of what will maintain the more salutary course of the complaint, without leaving painful instances of accumulated and hopeless misery, which neglected or ill-treated yaws seldom fail to produce.

Cleanliness and ablution form a material part of treatment. The means of preserving the former have been noticed in my remarks on clothing. Attention and judgment must guide and govern the latter, otherwise our best purposes, directed to the welfare of our patients, and their eventual cure, will be destroyed. The cuticular surface has important indications to perform in the treatment of yaws. Most negroes have a propensity to frequent bathing in the stream. Some, however, are of such dirty indolent habits, that they would rather exist in filth and nastiness than take that trouble. To regulate the former dispositions with prudence, and compel the latter to do what is requisite, becomes the duty of attendants. A warm or tepid bath

in the yaws hospital should be kept in perfect order, heated, when necessary, from ninety-six to one hundred degrees, and administered as often as cleanliness or the purposes of cure require.

Negroes are extremely inclined to bathe in any stream of water at noon, or the few hours succeeding; and consider it a luxury, of which they might conceive it a hardship to be deprived. In warm sunshine weather, when the running water is actually a tepid bath, their dispositions may be gratified; but it would be prudent to regulate the time to remain in the bath; otherwise they will continue in it so long as to be injurious to our purposes of cure.

In the most minute sense, bodily cleanliness should be strictly inculcated by established regulations; and clothing of that kind which will promote softness of the skin, without copious perspiration. By these, comfortable dwellings, bodily exercise, suited to circumstances of constitution, and fit diet, I am much of opinion that the yaws will neither prove a tedious disease, nor followed by those melancholy consequences already shewn to have proceeded from mismanagement and neglect.

To disturb nature in more respects than subduing debility, and preserving the natural functions of the body regular, would be wrong. The yaws will run a certain course, and spontaneously wear off, with very little assistance from art.

I feel considerable doubts on the propriety of administering mercury at any stage of the disease, if the

treatment already pointed out has been carefully observed. With negroes, it must be confessed, we will sometimes fail in getting that obedience to wholesome rules, which regard to their own welfare should secure; and when, in the latter stages of yaws, rheumatism is formed, from exposure to cold and damp, a gentle course of the blue pill or calomel, with due caution, and the decoction of woods of the Edinburgh Dispensatory, are extremely proper. But I must also remark, that one old remedy has been found more efficacious in such cases, namely, Plummer's pills, to which Dr Grainger recommends the addition of a few grains of camphor. In some cases, the author has found very salutary effects from pills composed of the powdered gum guiacum, with tartarised antimony, but not to produce nausea or vomiting.

The writer in the Edinburgh Medical Essays, to whom I have already referred, and those who have subsequently treated on the disease, particularly warn against the use of mercury in the early stages of yaws; and it is peculiarly incumbent, on the present occasion, to caution against it, because old women and others, who profess to cure yaws more rapidly than others, find means to introduce mercury to their systems, and thus accomplish deceptive cures, which are followed by all the miseries of bone-ach, deformity, ulcerations, &c. already mentioned.

Sublimed sulphur, or the flowers of sulphur, has been long a favourite remedy in cutaneous diseases; and, in the disorder we now treat of, I believe it to be a

good medicine, so far as we have to promote an open state of the skin and bowels, while it also increases the urinary secretion.

As a common drink, the decoction of guiacum and sassafras, fermented with syrup or molasses, for their constant drink, is much recommended; but it is conceived that these may be omitted, or otherwise, as circumstances connected with the progress of disease are going on favourably, or the contrary.

When the eruption is backward, and forming imperfectly, the flowers of sulphur, combined with a few grains of camphor, may be formed in a bolus, and taken night and morning, assisting it by the above drink, good nourishment, and the warm bath.

In the treatment of children at the breast, we cannot venture to give them medicine of powerful operation. And it would be on all occasions better, with the exception of topical treatment to the yawy ulcers, to trust to the salutary effects of the mother's milk, who should submit herself to that regimen most favourable to the infant's recovery, and even to whatever medicine it may be proper for her to take, with a view of improving her milk.

As an instance of the consequences of mercury in yaws, the following statement is taken.

"A lady went out as governess to a family, married an overseer, and got yaws. She was anointed with mercurial ointment at an early stage of the disease, and was salivated. After the salivation, she seemed perfectly well; soon recovered her strength; and engaged to go

to England with a gentleman's lady, as her attendant; and, accordingly, embarked for that country in May or June 1728.

"Some weeks after she arrived in London, she was attacked with violent pains in her arms and legs; and applied herself to a surgeon or apothecary of her acquaintance, who gave her many medicines to no purpose; for, while she was under his care, an ulcer broke out in her leg and another in her arm. Upon this, her money beginning to fall short, and thinking she had a better chance of getting well in a country where her distemper was known, than where they knew little of it, she got a passage to this island again. In August 1729, she came to me, begging my assistance. She was really an object of charity; and I promised to give her my utmost endeavours to save her, without the least prospect of gain. The pains of her limbs then continued severe; and she had five or six ulcers in different parts of her arms and legs, covered with an hypersarcosis (or foul granulations).

"I told her she must be very sincere in answering what questions I asked her; for as her husband had given her the yaws, he might as well have given her the venereal disease; and that I should have more hope of curing her, if the present symptoms proceeded from the last, than if they were the consequence of the first. She told me she never had any venereal symptoms in her life, either before she had the yaws or since. That a few days before she discovered she had the yaws, her husband left her, and went to sea, his first profes-

tion; that she had never seen him since, nor conversed criminally with any other man. Her sincere and sensible way of answering every question I could ask her, as they occurred to me, and the good character she bore among her acquaintances, as well as its being her interest to tell me the truth, which she might without any shame, convinced me she was sincere, and had no design to deceive me or ruin herself.

"The above case was treated by a course of *mercurius dulcis* (calomel), the effect of which was kept up gently on the gums for a considerable time. She salivated about a quart daily for four weeks. Finding it not to answer, the ulcers enlarging, and the pains becoming more violent, it was allowed to go off. But at night there fell a great rain; and the room, not being very tight in the roof, was very wet. The next day the salivation stopt, and she had a fever for a fortnight, which at length went off, and left her so weak and emaciated, that I was afraid she would die consumptive at last.

"She was then put on a milk diet, and ordered a decoction of sarsaparilla and China roots, to be drunk for her constant drink, with one-third milk. In about eight or ten weeks she recovered her strength and flesh; and was advised by some of her neighbours to use a diet drink that a certain negro made, which they said had cured numbers in her case, after all other means had failed. This she used for six or seven months, and dressed the ulcers with tincture of myrrh, bathing them every dressing with warm lime-water. But both they and her pains increased. The bones be-

came carious in every ulcer; and she lingered under the distemper to the end of the year 1734, and died."

The same writer observes, "That the corrosive sublimate was used in solution, and they got seemingly well; but that they broke out again, or, in process of time, complained of gnawing pains in their bones, or were subject to ulcers in several parts of their bodies. They have generally ended in nodes, exostosis, and caries, and the bones of the legs and arms break without any external violence."

Every circumstance taken into consideration, whether from personal knowledge, or gathered from other sources, it would decidedly appear that the exhibition of mercury in yaws is seldom necessary, even in its latter stages; but, when given in the early progress of that disease, it has a tendency to fasten dreadful afflictions for ever after on the patient. I would request, however, to be fully understood, that, in certain constitutions, when the yaws have begun to decline, after going through a certain course, mercury may be in some shapes highly adviseable, but not to salivate.

Some gentlemen in Jamaica are apt to be deluded by the promises of rapid cure under the treatment of ignorant persons. I would beg leave to warn them against this delusion, if they wish to avert the calamities already alluded to. Every property may have its own yaw hospital; and in it, if properly conducted, satisfactory results will be observed, advantageous to the future interests of the proprietor, and affording the

prospect of undisturbed health to negroes from the relicks of yaws.

On the respectable authority of Dr Wright, in his notes to Dr Grainger's Essay on the Management of Negroes, he says,—"When the disorder is on the decline, *then, and then only*, mercurial alteratives are safe and useful; but never to raise a salivation on any account.

"In good habits, the eruption will go off by itself, without any medicine."

The distressing consequences which are observed to proceed from ill treated yaws, require no further illustration. But the ardour of overseers, or an unfeeling hardihood they contract, bring unfortunate negroes, under yaws, and imperfectly cured, into the gangs in the field; thus obtaining labour at a great sacrifice to interest, while every consideration of humanity is outraged.

It is a very prevalent opinion, that the number of hogsheads of sugar made on an estate is an undoubted test of the overseer or attorney's management. And, at first sight, a great crop sounds well. But, with considerable inclination to give a manager credit for such exertions, it is incumbent on the proprietor to examine contingencies; to see whether his negroes are preserved in health and good plight; that excessive labour is not urged, by means of the lash, to which they are unequal; and that stock of every description is well taken care of. An examination into these circumstances will at all times be expedient; but when negroes are not to be

supplied, our cares should be increased for them by every means we can devise; and it is but reasonable to conclude, that a great indication of superior management consists in preserving the value of that capital through which it must be well carried on.

Having thus expressed my sentiments on the internal treatment of yaws, for which I am so much indebted to the writers I have mentioned, the topical treatment of the ulcers naturally calls for attention.

When the eruptive disease goes on well, without any interruption, on account of unfavourable circumstances in the constitution of the patient, the observance of cleanliness, without causing irritation, by rubbing, is only required. The ablutions which have been recommended will so far answer that purpose; and some cool water, gently applied to wipe the sore, will answer every other indication.

The *master yaw*, as it has been termed, is one of greater size, and of a more matured appearance than the rest. In the decline of yaws, should it remain more stationary than the rest, some mild escharotics may be applied.

In the month of August last, I was favoured with the perusal of an anonymous letter, in the Royal Gazette of Jamaica, dated Clarendon, February 1816, wherein some useful observations are made on the treatment of this disease.

That gentleman applies his remarks with great propriety to the uncertainty of that extent of injury which the yaws are productive of, on account of neglect.

If it can possibly be necessary to bring home farther conviction, the reports of medical gentlemen on the cause of negro deaths, for one or two years, if faithfully searched into, would discover a frightful proportion of them to have originated from yaws.

There is, however, a measure recommended in that paper, to which I cannot subscribe; I mean the advising of general or parochial hospitals; because, in my opinion, every estate or plantation should have its own hospital, great or small, as it may be, under proper regulations. The sick will be thus more easily managed. A vast accumulation of disease is not brought to one place; the vices which are apt to creep in where great numbers are together, will be avoided; and every curative purpose will be better fulfilled.

When the negro system, under yaws, has been supposed in such a condition as to go on favourably, without the assistance of escharotic applications to the sores, and where the rules inculcated will be observed, that easy course will most probably have no interruption. There may be some cases, where foul granulations will form; and these must be removed, by a solution of the blue vitriol, or verdegris, and a dressing of the vegetable kind, such as orange pulp, with some of the solution applied to them, or the green basilicon of the Dispensatory.

After the cure of yaws, negroes are subject to a relick of that disease, known under the name of *tubboes*, affecting the soles of their feet, as hard tumours formed under the skin. They disable negroes from

walking about, and are a severe complaint, whether we consider the pain they give on pressure, or the means by which the unfortunate sufferer gets cured of them.

These tumours should be cleared of the surrounding skin, so as to render them as subservient as possible to the action of cauterising preparations, which appear to be invented more to produce torture than any other principle.

After considering the means which have been adopted towards the cure of these, I am inclined to give a preference to the dissecting out of the tumour, and then to dress the part with digestive materials, until healthy granulations have filled up the wound.

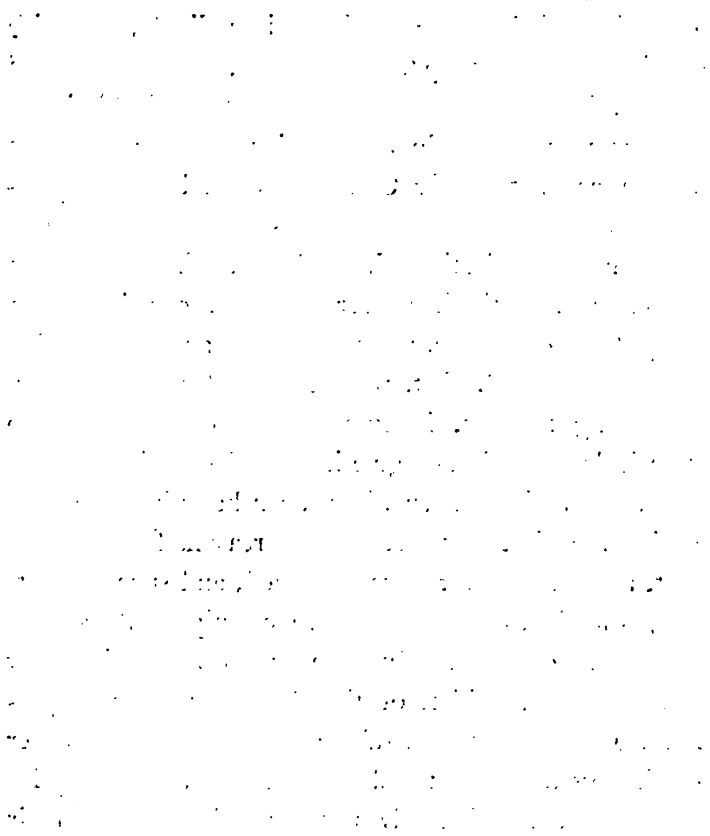
A proper and necessary preliminary step is however necessary to soften the tubboes by a vapour bath; and no place seems to be better calculated to answer that end, than what is directed in the excellent work of Dr Chisholm. "A hole, large enough, being dug in the sand, alternate layers of charcoal and manchineel wood are laid in it. When the charcoal is well lighted, and a thick smoke arises, the patient is made to place the diseased foot over it, and a piece of thick osnaburgh is laid over all, to prevent the escape of vapour. At the end of an hour the foot is removed; and the tumours, which, before the application of the steam, were hard and untractable, are now completely rotten, in so much, that, without giving the least pain, they are picked out with a small pointed penknife."

By the present mode of removing tubboes, negroes are kept in a state of dreadful torture, on account of the

operation of these most painful ingredients, corrosive sublimate, red precipitate, verdegris, blue vitriol, and gunpowder. Every sympathy towards our fellow creatures ought to do away their necessity; and such a plan as that of Dr Chisholm must be in every respect better.

If caustic applications should be sometimes wanted in obstinate cases, the less severe action of caustic kali, or the *potassa cum calce*, might be tried, and considerable hopes entertained, that, while it operates effectually in destroying tubboes, its known properties of doing so with little pain, should give it a decided preference.

The yaws, like the small-pox, can be only taken once during life; but there are weighty reasons for believing that, as negro comforts are improved, and successful attempts made to introduce more cleanly habits among them, the disease will yet be unknown in the West Indies. The abolition of the African trade will promote a purpose so desirable; and put it in the power of planters to banish the disease, if they are heartily inclined to exert themselves in an object where their material interests are concerned.



ON THE

PROGRESS OF VACCINATION

IN THE

ISLAND OF JAMAICA.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PROGRESS OF VACCINATION

IN THE

ISLAND OF JAMAICA,

WITH HINTS AGAINST ITS ABUSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE blessings which have proceeded from Dr Jenner's matured plan of vaccination, to prevent small-pox, were not fully introduced at Jamaica before 1801; at that period even, it shared the fate of all innovations in medicine; and its avowed advantages were treated by many with confidence, by others with reserve, and by some as an ephemeral presumption, which time would do away, as altogether unequal to its professed purposes.

Dr Weston, of St Ann's, took great pains to extend its benefits, by publishing the observations he made in

some of the newspapers, inviting the profession to accept of any assistance he could supply them with, by transmitting vaccine lymph in the most likely manner to preserve it, or by infecting any negroes that might be sent to him, for the purpose of getting lymph on the spot, when it might be introduced immediately to the persons to whom we were desirous to convey infection.

The heat of climate operated powerfully to prevent the preservation of lymph. Decomposition took place within a very short space of time; and it was a subject of concern to all those who were disposed to ascertain the merits of vaccination, that such matter was introduced, and afterwards little attended to; a papulary appearance ensued, which was reported to an occasional professional visitor, who probably saw a scab left on the arm, and passed an opinion that they had gone through the affection.

Soon after, some favourable opinions were entertained of vaccination. But, before we were able to get it in the parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, information was received that the infection was fully established in a neighbouring parish. I proceeded to see the persons under it, and to procure the means of infection to our practice.

On arriving at the estate, they were submitted to my inspection. Mr. Bryce's publication and plates had been at that time the only source of minute information to govern my opinion; but I found every circumstance, either of history or appearances, at such variation with any thing I had learnt of the symptoms and progress of

the vaccine pustule from that author, as to oblige me to declare my conviction that it was no vaccine infection.

We will sometimes meet with an unaccountable listlessness in these things. It was taken for granted, on some neighbouring estates, that security was given against the future invasion of small-pox; but, in several years after, that destructive disease affected the same negroes; and many of them fell victims to it.

We at length secured the true infection, by my partner, Dr Clarke, sending a negro child to Dr Weston, to remain there until genuine marks of incipient pustule were discovered. From that source we introduced the affection, and kept it up for a considerable time.

The difficulties practitioners encountered, who felt confidence in the respectable authorities from which they proceeded, suggested the expediency of an attempt to keep up the vaccine virus, by successive inoculation, and to afford an inexhaustible supply by only infecting a few at a time.

That plan was in some measure successful; and when, from the multiplicity of business, which, at certain seasons, crowd upon the plantation practitioner, it was inevitably lost, we were able to procure it at no great distance.

In the pursuit of an object so much for the public good, it cannot be too much impressed on those who possess decided influence, by rank and fortune, that their exertions in support of any means to preserve the lives of our fellow creatures should be always ready to

assist practitioners, and to remove whatever prejudices the more humble descriptions are disposed to form, on such an innovation as the introduction of vaccine inoculation.

In opposition to every obstacle which this inestimable discovery has met with, the cause of humanity and truth at length prevailed. We find that the commendable exertions of practitioners, supported by many respectable individuals, have fully convinced the people of Jamaica that vaccination merited the countenance of its legislature; and, on the 30th December 1813, we have the report of a committee, appointed by the Honourable House of Assembly, by which a vaccine establishment was agreed to. The institution to be attended at Kingston, being the most populous town, by a physician, surgeon, and a clerk or assistant.

In a series of years, the author felt no hesitation in strenuously recommending to his friends the adoption of vaccination to prevent small-pox; and, in his practice, from 1801 to 1812, when he left the island, no circumstance occurred to raise a doubt in his mind of its efficacy.

Mr L.'s infant was infected, and went regularly through the disease, in November 1806. In January 1808, some cases of small-pox were in her neighbourhood; and she was carefully inoculated with variolous matter. For five days succeeding its introduction, the usual appearance of local infection were observed; but it declined; and no derangement of health ensued.

In February, as some apprehensions were still enter-

tained, the operation was repeated; and its result was similar.

B. L. an infant, was infected with vaccine lymph in November 1806, and went through the disease in a satisfactory manner. In August 1809, variolous matter was introduced, when a younger sister was inoculated with it. After the fifth day, every appearance vanished: the younger child was under the same roof with her; no precautions were taken to prevent intercourse with her in the progress of small pox; but the child that had undergone vaccination in 1806 continued secure against its influence.

About this time, the infant son of Sir E. C. was under our care, and went through the disease regularly. His arm became very sore, owing to musquito bites; and it is adviseable to have the part defended against them by a loose but cool covering, impervious to their attacks.

In November 1806, Mr T.'s daughter Martha, an infant, went through the infection. In April 1810, her two younger sisters were inoculated with variolous matter. The inflammation in Martha's arm did not decline till the ninth and tenth day; the other two underwent small-pox in the same room with her.

Master W. T. was vaccinated by Dr Rennalls in 1804, and went regularly through the disease. While small-pox was prevalent in April 1810, variolous matter was carefully introduced; pustulary appearance on the arm proceeded until the ninth and tenth day, with-

out affecting his health in the slightest degree. He continued exposed to variolous contagion, without any symptom of the disease. This case, therefore, proves that, after six years, when a person was exposed to infection by inoculation and contagion, the system was defended against variolous influence by vaccination.

The above are a few only of those cases which might be produced in favour of vaccination. Nothing occurred, in the course of my practice in Jamaica, to cast a doubt on the salutary consequences which it has secured to the human race.

The author has perused with impartiality many of those publications on both sides of the question; and he is, at this time, disposed to believe that, owing to inattention on the part of some persons, who should superintend more minutely its progressive stages, the affection has not been fully established in those cases which have not fulfilled expectation; but if some instances occurred of small-pox having taken place after vaccination, it is no more than what we know of *variola*. Before I had been in practice for two years, the child of Mr R. had small-pox, and a pretty numerous crop of them. He happened to be attended by another surgeon, who, of course, knew he had them before. In about three years, that gentleman (Dr Manson of Thurso) wrote me the boy had taken small-pox a second time, of a malignant and confluent kind, of which he died.

Though my confidence is not at this time changed,

It is to be lamented that, for some reasons unhappily existing, we must not refuse to listen to many alleged instances of the failure of vaccination as a preventive to the future influence of small-pox.

Indeed, the reports of institutions have so fully courted a spirit of candid inquiry, that the generous principles upon which they act cannot be doubted by liberal minds; and it is the duty of those who have any observations to communicate on this important question, to come forward in the spirit of philanthropy with them.

Divesting myself of any other motives than what these sentiments profess, I feel it due to add the circumstances contained in the following report.

"*Barracks, Carrick on Suir, Ireland,*
"*July* 1816.

"Serjeant Meighar's (7th Dragoon Guards) daughter Johanna was vaccinated in 1809 at Manchester, the father believes, in the month of February. He had been accustomed to see the progress of cow-pox cases; and says, that a professional gentleman was satisfied with it. She was, in the same year, in a house where small-pox prevailed, and no bad consequences followed. William, a son of the serjeant's, was vaccinated by virus, introduced at Hamilton, in Scotland, in 1814. A surgeon there was satisfied with it in its various stages, expressing additional confidence, on account of fever accompanying it.

"The small-pox made its appearance, in a married room, in the daughter of ——— Nangle. She was desired to be removed to a detached room in the hospital, conceiving that the above children of Serjeant Meighar's, the orderly, were already secured against infection.

"In about ten days, both of the serjeant's children got fever, followed by an eruptive disease, which I examined frequently every day: disposed to think they might be chicken-pox, but the character of small-pox was fully pointed out. Pustules began to decline on the sixth day; and, though numerous, the disease seemed to be of a more gentle kind than commonly met with.

"Lieutenant R.'s son had undergone vaccination about a month before. When the pustules were matured in the serjeant's children, he was inoculated with matter from one of them. A pustule of the variolous character was formed on the eighth day; it was considerably elevated by the tenth; in the evening, it was flatter on the *apex*; on the eleventh, it began to decline. Several slightly elevated red spots appeared over the arms and neck; his general health was not disturbed in the slightest degree; and they disappeared in a day or two.

"A. M. daughter of M. of the same regiment, a saddler, when about eight months old, was infected in both arms with vaccine virus, while the regiment lay at Birmingham, in 1810 or 1811. It was remarked at the time as a beautiful specimen of the infection.

"When lying at Hamilton, in 1814, the child got small-pox of a malignant and confluent kind. She

made an unexpected recovery; and her looks are now much impaired, in consequence of its confluent character.

"*October* 1816.—W. D. about twenty-one months, son of T. D. boat-builder, was vaccinated by Mr ——, apothecary. The child's mother considered subsequent appearances unsatisfactory, and said she expressed the same opinion to Mr ——. Inflammatory affection continued only for a few days. When the said child was about three years and one month old, he took small-pox of a bad kind, and died. Contagion was communicated to another child in the family, who also died."

In producing these instances, which may appear to militate against the security we are inclined to concede to the happy effects of vaccination, we are bound to reflect on the testimony in favour of its security, so extensive and satisfactory; the evidence we have of small-pox occurring twice in the same subject; and the possibility that, from local circumstances, such minute observation by a surgeon was not made in these cases, as to enable a professional man to come forward and declare that vaccine infection had been fully established.

There are few questions of higher interest than that of the efficacy of vaccination; though, as a disease, we shall seldom or never find it demanding the aid of medicine; yet, to constitute it, daily examination, from about the fifth day, by a professional man, appears to be in all cases expedient.

In addition to that support which the laws now afford it, practitioners and others, who may be authorized to vaccinate, might be bound to enter every name of persons inoculated, date, &c. and opposite to such name, columns for each day, until the twelfth or fourteenth after the subject had been vaccinated; to provide that no person shall be considered safe, unless the test of a second or third inoculation has taken place; and that no practitioner whatever shall vaccinate, without returning to the institution, quarterly, a statement upon oath of this kind, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Some measures are peculiarly wanted in Ireland to suppress the agency of improper persons who promote the extension of small-pox; and, until some legislative interference is acted upon, it is not likely that the evil will be radically removed.

In Great Britain, the sixteenth clause of instructions for the regulation of regimental hospitals, and the concerns of the sick, in some measure secures that accuracy of observation which it is the object of these remarks to inculcate; but a register, on a specific plan, would be preferable. And it is conceived, with submission, that, in a matter so momentous, it should be inspected by the general officer in his half yearly rounds, as well as by the medical staff-officer in his more frequent visitations.

ON THE

PRESENT CONDITION OF

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

ON ESTATES AND PLANTATIONS IN JAMAICA.

THOUGHTS

ON THE

PRESENT CONDITION OF

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

ON ESTATES AND PLANTATIONS IN JAMAICA,

IN TOWNS AND CITIES;

AND THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THESE DEPARTMENTS.

By referring to the index, it will be found that, whether in plantation practice, or that of a town, we may happen to be placed in Jamaica, there are many existing circumstances of an objectionable nature, which it would be well for the employer, the employed, and for those who come under their care, to have amended.

On estates and plantations, the negroes come more particularly under treatment; and we find that, for the purpose of earning any thing like a competency, it is

absolutely necessary to assume a more extensive charge than can be well attended to.

To obviate so material a disadvantage to proprietors, negroes, and professional attendants, it is conceived that practitioners should be paid at the rate of ten shillings for each negro *per annum;* and that, in the lowlands, they should not be permitted to accept under their care more than four thousand negroes.

If certain regulations for the establishment of qualified professional young men were adopted, it would embrace several important objects to have them first placed in mountain situations, where population is thinner; and it might be adviseable to limit such mountain practice to two thousand negroes; affording expectancy to those junior branches of the profession, that, by merit and industry, they might look forward to fill vacancies in the lowlands when they occurred.

In tropical climates, the European adventurer has to combat many things inimical to the preservation of health; but it is peculiarly the fate of medical practitioners to encounter duties which oblige them to be exposed at night, on urgent occasions of illness, when the sources of disease are more prevalent. It therefore appears but reasonable that such demands for assistance should be admitted, as a charge exclusive of regular accounts; and that, in cases of midwifery, or those which oblige them to be out after certain hours, additional charges should be permitted.

In cases of surgical operations, it is already an established rule to allow extra charges.

If it should be objected to these propositions, that they would bear too heavily on the interests of the planter, the author is prepared to shew, on the contrary, that it would be the wisest policy to secure well educated professional men to discharge their duties; and to shut out improper persons, by holding out to the qualified, inducements which might encourage them to turn their views to the West Indies.

The practicability of such a change, must depend on the view taken of it by proprietors, their representatives, &c. But if the preservation of our negro population is a primary object with colonists, it is manifest that much must depend on the respectability of medical care while negroes are in the hospital. It is painful to the author to express his conviction, that many have been lost, owing to treatment under disease, which, if not productive of immediate dissolution, very certainly paved the way to it.

Medical men, in emigrating to the West Indies, cherish a hope, in common with others, that, by encountering a foreign and insalutary climate, to labour for a number of years, they may be enabled to return to their friends and country. It is, indeed, a consolation of that sort, which, if extinguished, seldom leaves much comfort; and it appears but reasonable that honest and well applied industry, for a series of years, should admit of some reservation, in prudent hands, as a resource for retirement to their native country, when the state of health or inclination may dictate it.

The East Indies affords an encouraging scene for the medical profession; and experience informs us, that the preservation of health is better secured to Europeans in that country. Whether in the civil or military service, a certain provision is made to persons desirous to return to their native country.

These suggestions are brought forward more confidently, because the author is convinced that it would be well for those interested in the West India colonies to place their medical practitioners on an improved establishment. Overseers, attorneys of estates, book-keepers, carpenters, mill-wrights, &c. very certainly recover their demands; but those of the hard-earned labours of the practitioner are not so easily realised. The losses more generally encountered in the year, bear a heavy proportion to his amount of practice, while it is too true that he has scarcely the usual hire of house labour for plantation practice.

I come next to notice the long established habits of those practitioners, who are chiefly engaged in practice at the larger towns in Jamaica. These comprehend Kingston, Spanish Town, Montego Bay, and Falmouth.

In Kingston and Spanish Town, the comparative advantages of medical men are very great; and were it not for the procrastinating system of payments so universal among them, their circumstances might be considered enviable.

General practitioners in Spanish Town, which include those of the physician in ordinary, surgeon, and

apothecary, are permitted to charge for medicines only to town patients, excepting night calls, surgery, and midwifery. But the author is of opinion that, instead of the practitioner securing remuneration by a profusion of medicines, it would be more satisfactory to his feelings, and less annoying to patients, that regulations were formed to pay for attendance.

It is particularly recommended to change that system, which exposes the sick to the designing and extravagant arts of the practitioner and apothecary, united in the same person, and to institute a system more congenial to all parties.

I am persuaded that few, if any, countries suffer so severely as Jamaica, owing to the admission of persons to practice medicine, surgery, &c. among them, who have no competent pretensions.

It will be admitted, that it is an evil against which every hand in the island should be raised; and certainly discovers a defect in that important department, which should be obviated with as little delay as possible.

The qualifications which professional men, having pretensions to practice, ought to possess, should consist of a surgeon's certificate from the London, Dublin, Edinburgh, or Glasgow Colleges; qualifications to practise midwifery; and of having served for a certain time to an apothecary, or an apprenticeship to a surgeon-apothecary.

A medical agent might be employed generally for the West India islands, to be resident in London, and

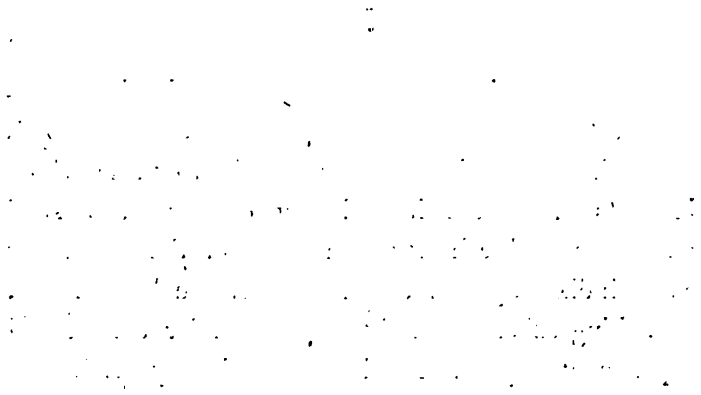
whose duty it would be to certify for such gentlemen, that they are competent to undertake practice in the West Indies; and that they are, in other branches of education, what they ought to be.

To resist every attempt at imposture, the legislature should pass an act, to prevent the admission of unqualified persons to the practice of medicine, surgery, pharmacy, &c. within the respective islands.

To institute a system, that would secure deserving and industrious medical men, while such, in the full possession of employment; to guard, at the same time, against misconduct in those important duties belonging to the profession, and to deprive such characters of employment, would be the object of these remarks; but, without personal intimacy with the dispositions of those immediately concerned in West India properties, and what objections might be advanced, the author will not venture, on the present occasion, to enter so widely as his own opinions incline him to do. He will therefore reserve a full exposure of the plan he conceives best adapted to secure good medical attendance to the West Indies to a future period. Encouragements of a more advantageous nature than hitherto would be recommended, as likely to lead to many happy consequences. And, where merit is found, surely no service is more likely to afford tranquil sensations to a proprietor, than the reflection that his negroes, under sickness, are in the humane care of an able medical gentleman.

Having so far avowed the object of my remarks on

this part, and given my reasons for considering it premature to explain my ideas fully; until a probability is established of their being acceptable to those whose interests are more immediately concerned, I shall close them with a hearty wish that, for the honour of West India proprietors, and their eventual advantage, something effectual may be done to render the medical department respectable and useful, as it may be.



ON THE

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

SO FAR AS IT AFFECTS

ATTENDANCE ON NEGROES,

IN

PLANTATION PRACTICE.

ON THE

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

SO FAR AS IT AFFECTS

ATTENDANCE ON NEGROES,

IN

PLANTATION PRACTICE.

OBSERVATIONS made in the course of my narrative will shew, that proprietors, attorneys, &c. bestow liberally, in general, towards the necessities of sick negroes; but that those supplies, under due controul, and systematic economy, might be considerably diminished, and the comfort of that description of persons more perfectly secured.

Innovation against practices of long duration will meet with opponents, however reasonable new propositions may be; and the author recollects, when he first attached himself to the army, in 1794, that its system of medical arrangement was more objectionable than we now find in West India plantation practice. But those who undertook its reformation, have rendered services

to their country of the most satisfactory nature. The sick soldier has now every comfort and care which his nearest and best friends could expect, and these under a system of admirable arrangement, which unite every principle of economy with what is useful. To his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, to a late respectable Director General of the Army Medical Department, and to the members of the Medical Board, the public, who feel an interest for the comforts of our soldiers, owe every thing the attainment of such objects comprehend.

These remarks on army medical police are introduced, because, in what has been suggested towards the improvement of plantation attendance on negroes, it appears that much advantage might be gained from applying it in many points to hospitals on estates in the West Indies.

Local circumstances may render a plan of this kind in many respects different, as will be apparent to those acquainted with the West Indies; and these must not be omitted, in any proposition that may be attempted.

Among the primary objects, it is of importance to secure to our West India colonies medical men of undoubted pretensions. By those preliminary steps which have been noticed in another part of this work, and by making their situations respectable, no difficulty will be found in procuring such persons.

Over the sick department, throughout the West Indies, it appears adviseable that legislative enactments should be formed, to place the sick negroes on the pro-

fection of public laws; the execution of which might be performed by certain heads of that department, supported by practitioners, under whose controul all persons admitted to hospitals might be placed.

The present establishment would admit that one book-keeper on the estate should direct his principal attention to those matters, which an improved system would point out to him; and its duties and responsibility may be compared to that of an army purveyor.

An intelligent healthy negro man and woman are at present considered necessary to dispense medicines, dressings, &c. in the hospital; and they form very important acquisitions to every estate, under the direction of a practitioner.

It has been already recommended, that no practitioner shall receive under his care, on lowland estates, more than four thousand negroes. He will be thus enabled, with diligence, comfort to himself, and the satisfactory reflection of doing his duty, to go on without those embarrassing feelings which excessive bodily exertion, and an unavailing wish to do what is impracticable, naturally entail on a feeling mind.

The Diary and Medical Journal, used in the army, might be easily adapted to the views an energetic practitioner would desire from plantation practice.

The dietary of negroes in hospital must be suited to local circumstances, so different from European diet; and there would not be much difficulty in selecting that from their own properties, which would form the most wholesome food for them in sickness. A little animal

food might be required for some, to assist the nutritious properties of their excellent pots; but many of them, while in hospital, would require no such assistance.

Considerable supplies are sent for the sick on estates. Their expenditure is often badly accounted for; and it is impossible to deny that much is misapplied and wasted. The purveying book-keeper might be made the responsible person for them, acting upon vouchers from the practitioner, and making regular returns of expenditure for the week or month.

Port-wine forms an expensive article to the proprietor: it is sometimes used when unnecessary, or disposed of otherwise. There are circumstances in which it forms an important and useful article for the cure of disease; but they are unfrequent. Spiritous substitutes, of a wholesome description, would meet every indication; and the heavy expence incurred for wine might be avoided. When wanted, the book-keeper in charge of hospital stores should be made responsible.

By the limitation of practice to four thousand negroes, professional men would be enabled to make as many visits as any case can require; but it is adviseable to have superintending authorities to examine books; to make occasional visits, to see that negroes, in sickness, have every care which humanity and duty to proprietors demand.

For the reception of such returns, and other duties, a medical superintendant, at a moderate salary, for each county in Jamaica, selected from among professional

men, who could afford to retire from practice, might be appointed to testify for or against plantation practitioners, subjecting them, for misconduct, to certain penalties provided in such cases. The above outline of a plan for the regulation of medical attendance in the West Indies, involves a difficulty, which the author is aware will be objected to, on the foundation, that proprietors and their representatives in the colonies would be deprived of patronage, in the appointment of professional men to estates, of their own selection.

No difficulty, however, appears in attempting to prove that the patronage vested in the discretionary will of representatives and proprietors sometimes operates more seriously against competent attendance on sick negroes, than most other circumstances connected with the present system of medical arrangement. And, if the object should be to render every other view subservient to radical amendment, to subject the island practitioners to limited practice, and to certain districts, as has been already proposed, there would be little difficulty in placing that patronage where it could be most wisely rendered effective.

These remarks were put together at a time when the author had no resource from books to suggest them; and, until his arrival in London, where he was so extremely obliged as to receive admission to the perusal of Sir Joseph Banks's invaluable library, he did not know that, in his conjectures on the improvement of our colonial medical establishment, he had been anticipated by that respectable and communicative writer,

Mr Long, in his History of Jamaica: and he must say, that it has added, in no slight degree, to the confidence he entertains on the subject, to be borne out in his suggestions by so excellent a man, and one who was so competent to judge in matters of colonial interest.

In page 591, he says,—" The dignity of the science of healing ought surely to be placed on the firmest basis in such a country: That, whilst the inhabitants confide their very existence to the physician's care, he may be enabled, by proper regulations, to assure himself that his patients will not be forced to swallow any other mixture than what he has prescribed; and that the varying or adulterating his prescription will be punished by the laws in the severest and most exemplary manner. And, surely, when we consider that such deceit is no less than a clandestine attempt against the life of one party, and the reputation of another, it must appear an offence of the most capital nature, and worthy of capital punishment."

Mr Long, in allusion to Colonel Codrington's bequest for education at Barbadoes, says,—" We must not expect, perhaps, to see a tolerable performance on this subject, composed by a Jamaica physician, until the legislature, *in commiseration of the loss and sufferings of inhabitants, shall take vigorous and effectual measures for excluding all those from commencing physicians, who do not bring with them authentic and sufficient credentials, certifying their qualification for so arduous a business.*"

As a branch of the profession which has an important duty to perform, particularly in the cities and towns, it ought not to be omitted, that apothecaries should also be possessed of proper credentials; and it is recommended to add to that department ample certificates of qualification to act as *accoucheurs*.

ON THE

MANAGEMENT

OF

NEGRO WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

ON THE

MANAGEMENT

OF

NEGRO WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

It is so obviously the policy of West India proprietors to render the negro women objects of their particular care, that I am persuaded some opinions concerning them will be acceptable.

The abolition of the African slave trade has cut off the means of supplying the deficiency of labourers, which, it is to be lamented, has been so apparent for some years. Unless such measures as are within the power of our colonists are put in action, the prospect is very bad; and it is desirable, on every commendable consideration, to do what is practicable to rear a healthy and vigorous race of negroes to fill up the numbers who go off in the usual course of nature.

The care of negro females becomes peculiarly the policy of West India proprietors; and, to render effectual the objects of preservation of health, as well as the prospect of their becoming the mothers of a healthy offspring, we will find obstacles, connected naturally with the loose habits they have been accustomed to, of a kind, which nothing but the sense of duty which religion can convey would possibly bring within due guidance.

That unrestrained habit of promiscuous intercourse which almost universally prevails in Jamaica, is in itself an insuperable bar to the young population we would desire to see brought forward in the country. It is, therefore, necessary to strike at the foundation of such a misfortune; and, by such measures as naturally suggest themselves, to correct the habits from which they originate.

When virtuous principles have established themselves, in some degree founded on religion, the numerous vices so opposed to conception in the female, to prevent the common and ruinous event of abortion, either brought on byexcess, injury, or intention, would be subdued: and the authority of masters, or the influence of the clergy, might gain success, by attaching the young females by marriage to the male. If such could be accomplished, a great and public end would be gained; the extent of which, so impressively full of importance, should be forwarded by proprietor, attorney, overseer, and physician.

It must be acknowledged that it is a difficult undertaking to change customs which have prevailed too

long, to the disgrace of the islands; but as they are a reproach to all those in any shape connected with them, it is incumbent on those who can govern on their own properties, to unite, and insist on the adoption of a system calculated for the welfare of all colours.

Negro women, in that unrestrained and corrupt line of conduct they are apt to pursue on arriving at puberty, contract habits of drinking, and consequent acts of violence, inimical to all decency, but particularly so against any probability of increasing numbers on the estate, of a healthy or useful description.

On every property there are to be found some decent discreet old female negroes, who are handy in needle-work, and under whose superintending care young women might be exclusively placed, unless the mothers are uncommonly decent characters, and deserving of such a trust, until approaches be made by a male of her own colour, and the consent of the overseer, parents, &c. obtained to an union by marriage.

Such a course would preclude that barbarous and violent line of conduct adopted on such occasions. Domestic endearments would be formed; the effects of good example would acquire an ascendancy over the minds of the unconverted; and every probability might be cherished that, from such an union, a fine and healthy offspring would proceed.

The diseases of pregnancy are undoubtedly aggravated in negro women; and, by the circumstances of conduct to which I have alluded, health becomes impaired, and the constitution is progressively undermined. If

pregnancy takes place, she perhaps lingers on to her appointed time to bring forward a lifeless infant, or a sickly one; or she has more probably had an abortion, and is left herself in a state of extreme danger and debility.

Abortion is so frequently the event of pregnancy in negro women, and its recurrence so certain, on their getting again into that state, unless regulations to prevent it are enforced, that a greater than probable opinion has been formed of means being taken to procure it, on account of ill disposition to their masters, and other barbarous reasons, for which there can be no excuse; and such acts are sometimes discovered to proceed from the most base principles which can be imagined to have a place in the human mind.

Unless means are adopted to bring the negro women to civilized habits, such as have been mentioned, it undoubtedly will follow, that every year will discover a prodigious decrease in our negro population. The consequences must be eventually ruinous; but every reformation of the kind has to originate with the higher classes. Unless negroes discover that they entertain a respect for what they inculcate, it is not likely that the more ignorant will be disposed to adopt tenets, on the recommendation of those who, by their conduct, discover a contempt for them.

It is very certain that the contented condition of negro women, their tranquillity, and consequent good wishes to their master, and others under whose superintendance they may be, have great weight on their

circumstances of prosperity, in which may be included the bringing forth and rearing of infants; and nothing operates more severely on their minds than the improper connexions, imperiously formed by whites with negro women, to the injury of that negro man who considered her his own, and the rightful companion of his bed.

A case of that kind has been introduced in my narrative, which might have been attended with fatal consequences; and it should serve as a powerful admonition to whites, that though an assumed authority did succeed in licentious gratification, the hand of that female was raised against her seducer, to administer the poisonous cup to him.

By the united exertions of proprietors and their representatives, we will therefore expect, that as the West India islands have, in many respects, profited by the abolition, they will also remove that greatest objection to it, the danger of decreasing population, by measures, at least in probability, within their power to fulfil.

During pregnancy, the female negro should have much of her own way. Lighter work, of course, is best fitted to her situation; at the same time, she ought to be employed, and regularly under the eye of some of the head people of her own colour: For experience informs us, with respect to them, that habits of indolence are bad for them; and it has been discovered, on occasions of indulgence, that when we supposed the woman to be enjoying rest in her own house, she was carrying heavy loads of provisions on her head to

town, to sell or barter. We must, therefore, avert dispositions so pernicious, yet engrafted too much in negroes' minds.

It is of material consequence to preserve an equal and moderate temper during pregnancy; a thing, in their present circumstances, not easily regulated; for their extremities of passion are frightful, and likely to disorganize them in that state. But if the reformation in social intercourse were introduced, so much recommended in this work, no doubt can be entertained but that the corresponding dispositions would be such as to remove the evil.

The treatment to which women are subjected when in child-bed, is not only deficient for want of skilful attendance, but those old females who in general perform the duty of midwives, are ignorant and cruel in the extreme; some instances of which have been given in the narrative. It is, therefore, worthy the consideration of colonists, to have some negro females, of humane good characters, instructed, one for every estate, by a practitioner, who would devote a part of his time to that purpose, and have a ward or lying-in hospital to afford practice to his pupils. Such an establishment would be deserving of the support of government; and, under proper arrangement, it would become one of the most advantageous institutions pertaining to such an island as Jamaica.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced to persuade female negroes that, on the approach of labour pains, they would be better accommodated, in every

respect, by removing from their own houses to the lying-in room, and remaining there until they are recovered.

Very many circumstances, connected with the uncultivated dispositions of negroes, and the machinations secretly formed unfriendly to the proprietor, or the individual who is to suffer pains, as well as the minute nature of personal care the mother and infant ought to have in well regulated establishments, point out the expediency of enforcing obedience to a regulation so salutary.

There are, however, considerations which merit reflection on this measure. It is a natural wish for women to be delivered at their own houses; and superstitious scruples will be sometimes found, over which persuasion will scarcely prevail; but if the lying-in apartments on estates are kept in a state of comfort superior to their own houses, detached from any other building, unless the residence of the *grandee*, or regular midwife, and other inducements held out, that useful establishment would be found truly so, on every property where wisely constituted.

Unless minute consideration and personal acquaintance are bestowed on the essential care of pregnant negro woman, I can readily conceive that it will be said, no facts have been yet produced, to deny to the negro female that comfort which consists in being delivered at her own house and home.

I admit that, in persisting on the establishment of a lying-in house for every estate, some good reasons should be

given for recommending a plan not perfectly acceptable to those persons chiefly concerned. But whether we consider quietness, cleanliness, towards the mother or infant, the dressing of the umbilicus, and other circumstances of material importance, we find that, in well regulated houses of that description on estates, under the superintendance of a judicious overseer, assisted by the medical gentlemen, the vestry returns would discover a very pleasing account of the accession of numbers to the property.

I have universally observed that negro women, who had been delivered in their own houses, were placed in circumstances of dirtiness and exposure very ill fitted to their situation. In every species of illness, we should try to subdue their scruples, founded as they are on false principles. One negro female has been mentioned, who lost her life by ants penetrating a neglected blistered part to the spinal marrow. Another negro woman on a property was slightly indisposed after labour, for whom a visit was applied. I requested her to shew me if she had got a fine child; but, when uncovered, the infant was no more, and all over with myriads of ants, penetrating the vital parts.

The propriety of lying-in rooms on every estate would be farther confirmed, were I to bring forward the arguments which actual events enable me to do; but I cannot conceive them to be wanting, after the above statement of their absolute necessity.

While an establishment of this kind ought to be formed on every property, we should make it as little

objectionable as possible to the most fastidious, by not connecting it with the negro hospital; for it has been found that such an appendage to it as a lying-in apartment, was particularly obnoxious to pregnant women. I am, therefore, of opinion, that the lying-in house should be attached to the midwife's, and, consequently, under her constant superintendance; which would remove what I experienced as the greatest objection on the part of mothers.

Before a fortunate event has taken place, in the safety of the mother and child, the midwife should be particularly cautioned at that stage, and at any antecedent period, to apply for the assistance of the male *accoucheur*, if any doubts are entertained on her part of the safety of either, that the best aid may be procured. But it should be impressed on the female attendant, if her assistance is only required, after delivery, to bandage the abdomen by a flannel roller; not to permit her patient to sit up, or walk about too soon; for, from that cause, I have known unseemly appearances produced at the lower part of the abdomen, and even prolapsus of the uterus or womb.

The latter accident, in consequence of harsh treatment, is very common in Jamaica; and may be accounted for more generally in the manner mentioned, or from improper exertion in carrying loads on the head. It is a most ruinous affection to the future health and comfort of women, and cannot be sufficiently guarded against.

The period at which, after delivery, the patient may

sit up, walk about a little, and be at length dismissed, ought to be regulated by the practitioner in attendance on the property. On the judgment with which such a duty is performed, her entire recovery, that of the infant, and her future contributions to increase and multiply a healthy progeny, must altogether depend.

It may not be considered altogether out of place to observe, that if the infant is thriving, it should be vaccinated any time after a week from its birth; but particularly before those distressing symptoms of teething are formed, which become so critical to children in Jamaica.

The care of infants immediately after birth, will be found in that part of the narrative pointed out by the index, under *Navel, in infants, treatment of.* There can be no doubt but that the increase of negro children would be materially promoted by a wisely formed code of regulations, extended to females who are engaged in promoting so desirable an increase of labourers, by which mothers would be rewarded for the successful rearing of children; and the midwife should share in these, as on her conduct materially depends the prosperity of the institution.

When the progress of labour goes on naturally, the plantation midwife will be competent to the performance of all that is necessary; but that dangerous assumption, too common among them, of not giving timeous warning, when they have reason to anticipate danger, has been productive of frequent fatal events to negro women in labour. The midwives must have a weight

of authority exercised against them, to prevent trespasses of a nature so criminal and fatal. The male *accoucheur*, who is most probably the plantation doctor, should be called without delay; and let us hope that his qualifications for that duty are such as to enable him to do whatever human art admits of to save the mother and the child.

In any charge of an extensive nature among negroes, we will find frequent instances of difficult labour, a few cases of that kind where instrumental delivery was necessarily resorted to; and several cases, during my practice in Jamaica, where embryo-ulcia, or opening the head to diminish its size, was necessarily performed, to save the life of the mother.

Such trying instances, for the exertion of our mental and bodily duties, are of a description which ought to impress the profession with a deep and serious sense of the importance of complete instruction in that branch. The planter has too much at stake, to think of admitting to his employment a professional man who has not been fully instructed in midwifery; and the commencing practitioner may be assured that, in negro practice, he has to fulfil duties in that branch, which can never be reconciled to tranquillity of mind, unless he has the ability to perform his duties in a suitable manner.

With those precautions which will be pointed out by an attentive and judicious practitioner, negro women, after delivery, will be found to make good recoveries; and seldom suffer from puerperal affections, as our more delicate countrywomen, accustomed to the habits

which so enervate, and render them more liable to fever, &c.

To accompany other parts of our care of females with attention, to prevent any source of febrile affection, owing to confinement of the bowels, is obviously necessary; and a laxative medicine, such as castor-oil, or an infusion of the cooling salts, will fully answer that purpose.

The infant should be put to the mother's breast as early as possible after delivery; and it is astonishing, on many occasions, to see how soon it imbibes the nutritious fluid which nature has so aptly provided. In general, its aperient property will be sufficient for the child; but, in a country where offensive accumulation in the bowels have an early tendency to produce alarming affections, unless in an open state, it may be advisable to administer a little castor-oil, or some manna in tepid water, which will operate to the necessary extent.

In course of the child's progressive advance, it has to undergo many dangers in teething, hooping-cough, measles, &c. It appears to me, that the treatment of those will be more properly directed by the practitioner in attendance; and I shall only observe, with regard to the first of these, teething, that where the gum is really in a state of irritation, or, from appearance, swelled in the slightest degree, laying it open freely, till the instrument is felt on the tooth, is of excellent advantage in many cases.

When the infant is suckled by an attentive and dutiful mother, it may be well to keep the child under such care for nine or twelve months; and no child should be weaned from the mother's milk, but by the approbation of the plantation doctor.

Too many instances are, however, to be found in our West India practice, where women become mothers, and extremely improper persons to be allowed to remain in charge of their infants, and particularly to suckle them. For the children of such worthless creatures nurses should be provided, who will do them justice, and the mothers sent to the field as soon as possible.

From the time of birth of the infant, it is certainly a judicious and salutary process to accustom it to immersion in cool water. It conveys a degree of vigour to the child, which fortifies it against affections to which it otherwise might be subject. And, if we are permitted to judge of its salubrious effects, from the delight expressed by an infant while joyfully paddling about in the vessel with water, and its lamentations when removed from it, the feelings experienced cannot be doubtful.

It is for many reasons unwise to allow children to be suckled too long; and provision must be made for the future comfort of the child, who is now in a lesser degree under the personal care of the mother.

There are old women on most estates incapable of any kind of labour, yet persons of decent character, who would find occupation and recreation in taking upon them the care of negro children, while their mothers

are at labour in the field. Such persons should be selected by the overseers, and instructions given not to allow them to be guilty of any improprieties. Innocent amusements might be devised for them; and, when that improvement so desirable shall have taken place, they may be instructed in their alphabet.

When a healthy child has been reared by the mother to that period at which it is weaned, it is due to her that a reward should be rendered; and it evidently is the policy of the proprietor to cultivate that opinion which mothers generally have of themselves, of being superior to any other description of females on an estate. Let that important feeling be maintained and encouraged by the proprietor, attorney, and overseer, by distinguished pieces of dress, and other marks of favour, which, in all probability, will be amply repaid by the individuals thus rewarded; and future accessions to the number of negroes will be produced in due time.

The desirable object which we have in view, and consider practicable, is an annual increase of negroes, instead of, as we have seen lately, an annual decrease. It is one thing to lay down a plan for that purpose, but certainly a more difficult one to put it into activity and effect. It must be the wish of all persons in the West Indies to adopt measures to ensure an increasing negro population. The formation of societies, composed of persons capable of suggesting measures to that end, would, in all probability, be of great use; and, while some countries are doing so much to get rid of the fin-

est description of peasantry in the world, to make room for another description of living creatures, let it accord with truth, that, in the West Indies, we do every thing that can be devised to increase the numbers of a peasantry, to render them an useful class of labourers, and to make them happy and comfortable.

ON THE

CONDITION OF NEGROES

IN THE

WEST INDIES.

ON THE

CONDITION OF NEGROES

IN THE

WEST INDIES.

THE justifiable nature of slavery has been questioned, with enthusiastic warmth, by men distinguished for those accomplishments which do honour to human nature; and it appears to be a conclusion, that, though no circumstance can justify a state of bondage between man and man, as a natural right, or why the colour of the skin should be associated with slavery, yet, from the unfortunately barbarous state of the great African continent,—the more civilized and powerful condition of Europeans,—the want of labourers for the colonies,—

the encouragements and facilities afforded by those Africans themselves on the coasts, to which European Guineamen resorted for cargoes;—from this combination of circumstances, such a traffic had been constituted. That trade, it must be acknowledged, has been carried on under circumstances repugnant to every duty which should have a place in the human breast; and if progressive improvement is making to convert the nations of Africa to Christian habits, abolition of the trade, to our islands, of human flesh, should be treated as an era in British history, which, as it has redounded to the honour of the nation, must be considered by the world worthy of that country, which has also had the chief agency in saving Europe from anarchy and degradation.

Though the traffic in negroes is done away from Africa to the West India colonies, in considering their condition, it must be admitted that they are more comfortably situated than they were in their native country; and, if fortunate enough to become the property of a humane and dutiful master, their advantages, fully considered, they would have little reason to think it a grievance that they have nominally become the property of another.

Immediately on the arrival of negroes from the coast of Africa, they are under the protection of our colonial laws, which, though imperfect in a few things, embrace all that is necessary for the personal protection of negroes,—for their support,—clothing,—and instruction. Though instances have been adduced of defects in the law, arising from the corrupt habits of some of those

white persons who find their way to controul; and while it is to be regretted that such were not foreseen, it is admirable to perceive with what willingness the legislative body of Jamaica has expressed itself to instruct and to improve the condition of their slaves.

When the African slave trade proceeded with an activity, and to an extent eventually ruinous to the West Indies, particularly to the coffee planters, who were establishing plantations mostly on credit, immense numbers of negroes were sent to the interior of the country, to mountain situations, partially settled, where their comforts could not be attended to. Their clothing was barely sufficient; and their diet not of that kind to correct unhealthy impregnations, contracted in the voyage, or to afford that strength of constitution which should accompany the seasoning of every African negro when brought to the West Indies.

Cold and moisture, so pernicious to negroes, peculiarly belongs to the climate of these mountains; so that many circumstances combined to render their situations extremely comfortless. Many of them got affected with that destructive disease, the *mal de estomac*, which spread among them, and ended with very many of them in death.

The African negroes, who were more fortunate in being purchased for old settled estates, and wealthy proprietors, were supplied immediately, with abundant care, in every necessary that can be imagined. Grounds were provided for them, whereon to raise provisions; and, in short, every thing which could contribute to

comfort, in the shape of housing, clothing, and good feeding.

During the first few months after arriving on the estate, new negroes do little work. Occupation of time is more inculcated than any other consideration, until their establishments, and other arrangements, are completely organized. They are, by that time, under gentle treatment, and the guidance of an older established negro, enabled to act for themselves; and progressively fall into the labours and penalties of the gangs to which they are appointed.

It is after these preliminary kindnesses to the negroes, that a sense of right and wrong is to be inculcated. They should know what the nature of that authority is the overseer possesses. The clamorous and terrific mode of punishment, with the heavy lash, should be avoided; and their duties performed, of an easy kind, by gentle measures, at the same time so as to convince them that they must be done.

It is the unlucky fate of a few properties only, throughout a large island, that enormities were committed. When detected, they are effectually arrested by a change of management. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that, in the recent state of things, on properties, the attorney, or proprietor, should have a check on all the proceedings of overseers, particularly in respect to the punishment of negroes. And I would desire to take this opportunity of effectually pointing out the extreme impropriety of a white man striking a negro; and to recommend that a negro shall not suffer

coporal punishment, in any shape, but in the presence of a white man belonging to the estate; and, if it were possible, in the presence of the plantation doctor, who might be empowered to limit the extent of punishment.

It is deeply to be lamented, that such is the disposition of negroes, and so great their proneness to crimes, that it is impossible to dispense with that power to punish, which is consigned to the judgment and discretion of overseers. That estimation which every British subject feels for his inherent privileges, should cherish corresponding sentiments of sympathy for our fellow creatures in a state of greater degeneracy. It would be more consistent with every principle of character we should be ambitious to retain as Britons, to learn, that universal sympathy and kindness were observed by us towards that unlucky race of people; but it is due to truth, and to those expectations which constitute in a great degree the objects of this work, to declare, that amendment is in some instances loudly called for. That, by proprietors and attorneys, it is necessary to say too much is placed in the overseers hands. I know that, in general, their own dispositions to prevent improper punishments are sincere; but, as it is wise, in the army, to conduct punishments as they are done, it is still more necessary not to arm an overseer with powers, which it would be unwise to place in the hands of an officer commanding a regiment in his Majesty's army.

The mind of a negro is not ennobled by those sensations which a state of freedom conveys; his movements to perform a laborious task proceeds from coercion

and the dread of punishment. We are not to expect his laborious pursuits to be carried on from regard to his master, but from the fear of punishment. Remuneration is even inadequate to procure his exertions.

The reconciliation of such incongruous characteristics evidently requires the superintendance of a prudent overseer; and, where his character is found to be judiciously humane, yet just in punishment, uniformly steady in his management, rewarding individuals for marked good conduct, impartial, ready to hear and redress real greivances, a terror to the guilty, and the friend of the well conducted,—an overseer, thus fulfilling his duties, will find that negroes will do that with alacrity, which, being under an indispensible necessity of doing, they would otherwise perform with murmurs and reluctance.

The overseer is likewise provided with abundant resources in the stores to bestow on negroes, distinguished for good conduct, the testimonies of his approbation; and there are few parts of his duty which appear to me to be capable of being turned to good advantage more than this branch of it.

In the painful infliction of penalties, it would be desirable to reduce the number of corporal punishments; if possible, to blot them from the pages of future history: But I am fully aware that this is not yet practicable; and would suggest the trial of solitary confinement. If it would bear on their minds in any manner similar to its penitentiary effects on soldiers, of which I am much disposed to think it would, the con-

sequences would be salutary to every purpose of order and discipline.

Excessive indulgence, and permitting luxuries to introduce themselves more than necessary among negroes, have been found of a dangerous nature to the preservation of that system, which has most probably yet to see the course of ages in our West India colonies.

In St Domingo, the condition of the French negroes, who revolted against their masters, and filled the land with blood, was the admiration of all visitors to that country; but that excessive enjoyment of the comforts of life, the kindness of their masters, and every attention which was freely rendered to them, produced in their minds hostility and insurrection. The dreadful consequences have not yet ceased; for, under the dominion of a Christophe, the most abominable tyranny exists, where there is a name of liberty assumed, which would have been better denominated arbitrary and absolute anarchy, where lives are at the momentary disposal of a monster in human shape and figure.

When negroes have been some time settled on an estate, and have established their grounds, their wants are, in general, amply supplied;—they are entrusted with a quantity of clothing, which they prefer getting made up for themselves; and, if they deal fairly, by wearing out these clothes before the limited time, they are supplied again until the season for delivering cloth arrives. On these occasions, it is customary for the proprietor or attorney to be present; and the negroes are expected, on that occasion, to submit their complaints, whatever

they may be; which they do, on some occasions, without reason, but with an eloquent and impressive gesture, which would surprise and entertain those unaccustomed to hear their powers of oratory.

An abuse at present existing on some properties, is arming the drivers with a power to inflict punishment in the field; and it may be adviseable likewise to deny any such discretionary powers to book-keepers. The offences of negroes will more properly come before the overseer at shell-blow, when any complaints may be submitted to him; or, if the fault committed is of such magnitude, to confine the offender till the overseer is found. When punishment is inflicted by flogging, the limits should be extended at no time beyond the number of thirty-nine lashes, which the overseer, or other superintendant, is only empowered to inflict by the letter of the law. It cannot, however, be denied, that this limitation is often outdone; and, by repeatedly punishing offenders, the parts become insensible to that laceration which tears up the skin. When that barbarous consequence is arrived at, its infliction becomes a matter of indifference to the unfortunate negro; and new sources of torture must be found out, by which the commission of crime may be checked. It can scarcely be necessary to add, that such a condition of torpor, in the parts to which punishment has been applied, can never be justified on any pretext; and I blush to reflect, that white men should be the directors of such disgraceful deeds.

Opinions have been given, that it would be well

altogether to do away the possession of a large heavy whip from the drivers hands; and, whether we consider the frightful sound which reaches our ears every minute, in passing through estates, by the crack of the lash, or the power with which drivers are provided to exercise punishment, it would be equally desirable that such a weapon of arbitrary and unjust authority were taken from them. It is at present customary to crack the whip, to turn out the gangs at stated hours to the field. When a negro seems to be tardy at his work, the driver sounds the lash near to him, or lets him feel it, as he thinks proper, on the occasion. The necessary signals for turning out, and the application of it in the field, might be supplied by means less objectionable; while an impression unfavourably made in the country upon the passenger, who is probably a stranger, is horrible indeed.

However much it is the wish of proprietors and attorneys of estates to condemn every step which has a tendency to bear down that description of negro incapable of the usual labour of healthy negroes, it is too true that due consideration is not sometimes given to this branch of good management; and, on that account, the interests of proprietors are sacrificed to a barbarous policy. On estates, this fault is not so commonly observed as in jobbing gangs; but, in both, the crime is equally culpable, and inimical to their true line of policy.

Another most unfortunate consequence, from either the unwise management of negroes, or the ill disposi-

tion of negroes themselves, is running away. The lists in the newspapers of the islands present a melancholy testimony of its prevalence. It may be possible to do away its source from the first cause I have mentioned; but, with the best management, such is the vagrant dispositions of certain negroes, that, though it may be in some degree limited, those acquainted with the negro character will readily acknowledge it cannot be altogether subdued.

It is the decided opinion of those persons who manage negroes most successfully, that it is not by the whip runaways, when detected, are most effectually reformed. With some no kind of indulgence or severity will have any salutary consequence. Their overseers are best acquainted with the various traits of character peculiar to them; and he ought to adapt punishment as his wisdom directs him. Labour in the field, denial of indulgences which the better description enjoy, confinement of a solitary kind, and other means, are open to his discretion, for those he has any hopes of reforming. By a judicious perseverance in these, without improper severity, a vice which has been formed, more from habit than original disposition, may be subdued, by effectually interrupting it for a certain time.

It was customary, at a remote period, to load runaways, when caught, with a chain; but, for a long time, that power has been forbidden, by a clause in the consolidated slave act of Jamaica; and no master whatever is empowered to put a chain on his negro, unless when committed to the work-house for improper conduct.

For slight offences, negroes of character will absent themselves for a few hours or days, and apply to a white man, of whom they entertain a good opinion, to intercede for them. This is successfully done; and he is restored to his labour, without the infliction of any punishment. And, when a runaway negro has been continued long under restraint, it is customary, on an assurance from a respectable negro to the overseer, that he will pledge himself for his future good conduct, to release the culprit from farther punishment; and very frequently, by future good behaviour, they fully redeem it.

Every consideration, therefore, of humanity and policy, point out, that the frequent infliction of the heavy whip, to cut up and lacerate severely, is inconsistent with those characteristics which should belong to any man entrusted with the management of negroes. That extreme punishment, if awarded, should be only admitted on occasions of very aggravated crime; and it would be well, even under these circumstances, not to inflict it on the single opinion of any individual. Certain it is, as has been already stated in the narrative, that those overseers who resort to the lash least, have uniformly the best governed gangs. It is at least an incontrovertible fact, that a wisely directed authority will seldom require it. The use of it, therefore, to a great extent, may be given up.

By abandoning the severity of punishments, as it is proved they may be, unless in cases of very aggravated transgression, the condition of negroes will be immensely

improved, whether we view them as being enabled to labour more effectually, or if we take them in their general appearance. A negro, subjected to frequent and severe punishment, has an appearance and manner by which he is easily known. If, in a warm day, we pass by a gang when they are uncovered behind, it is a reproach to every white man to observe in them the recently lacerated sores, or the deep furrows, which, though healed up, leave the marks of cruel punishment. If the management of negroes can be conducted without such unperishing testimonials of uncalled for cruelty, let not future crimes thus disgrace us; and let our future humanity towards them compensate for the past.

When the unrelenting repetition of crimes, after every method has been tried to amend the habits of negroes, terminates in a continuance of it, we must be persuaded, for our own peace of mind, and to do away the bad example which the presence and conduct of an incorrigible negro naturally tends to, to endeavour to dispose of such persons for what they will bring. Any value is better than the accompanying disadvantages, expences, and trouble of such persons. It is an additional inducement to the measure of disposing of them, that some bad negroes, under a good master, of whom no good, but a great deal of evil was derived, after being sent to another island, have turned out well.

It has been already shewn what comforts a good negro enjoys under that system of management which more generally prevails throughout the island of Jamaica. It is therefore unnecessary to add any thing

to my narrative on that subject, because my observations were made on occasions which actually occurred at the time, and naturally produced the testimony and opinions contained in it. In the present discussion on the condition of negroes, I have been anxious to expose to every possible shame, of which such characters can be susceptible, the instances of ill judged discipline improperly exercised on negroes. Though the abuses were few, it has been conceived that they could not be treated with over severity; and one particular reason has presented, that to the culpable conduct of a very few may be ascribed all that power of malignant rancour which has called forth the animadversions of the mother country against the colonists. Eventually, that ruinous proposition of a registry bill, an agitated state of the negroes in Jamaica that threatened disaffection, and in Barbadoes produced an insurrection, by which so many unfortunate people were destroyed, either in its bloody procedure, or to become victims to justice on account of their aggravated offences.

When the negro has availed himself of the advantages he has an opportunity of securing under the protection of a considerate and dutiful master, he is possessed of an establishment of which few examples can be afforded by the peasantry of any country. That diet which his master provides him, and the produce of his grounds, amply supply his table with a profusion of wholesome and tasteful materials. The reverse state is only found among those indolent persons, whose spare time, liberally bestowed on them, is passed away

either in idleness or iniquitous pursuits. The proprietor or overseer has an arduous task to fulfil towards these. He must not only watch their individual habits, but administer to the relief of their necessitous circumstances; and endeavour, by concerted plans between him and the more respectable class of negroes, to reform their ill directed conduct. Such unworthy dispositions in negroes are often, however, little under the controul of the best disposed managers; and they will eventually defy his exertions.

If we consider the accompanying circumstances of perplexity with those ill disposed negroes, they have a tendency to rouse the resentment of any man who has unfortunately the superintendance of them. Though every opportunity is afforded them to become industrious, useful to themselves, and independent of more than the usual supplies from the estates to which they appertain, they will rather pursue depredations against the fields of sugar-canes nearest to them, destroying much more than they can consume. They next extend a predatory course against the poultry yards; and eventually become a public nuisance to the neighbourhood in which they dwell. Such dilapidations cannot be tolerated. Penitentiary measures must be adopted; and, painful as they may appear, it is incumbent on the manager, while he maintains such negroes, to put it out of their power to extend their future plans of spoliation.

When such conduct proceeds from the improvident accommodations of managers, then, and then only, can

they be justified in any shape. That they did sometimes exist, particularly during the immense importation of Africans to Jamaica, must be admitted; when the inconsiderate speculations on credit were in active operation on the faith of coffee plantations turning out well; and where the proprietors had no ability to provide for their negroes, unless by funds raised on these speculations, from merchants and others, who had the means of advance.

In Jamaica, the negroes are permitted to cultivate a sufficient quantity of ground for the purposes of maintenance, and as a source of private emolument. Many of them will profit by so great a benefit; others, of a description already understood, will not. It is therefore necessary to prevent the aggrandisement of the one, and the defection of the other; to see that they are attentively laboured, as if it were for their master; otherwise, it will be found that negroes become deficient in provisions, and they must be fed from the stores of the estate. The island laws of Jamaica have provided amply in regard to a certain extent of provision lands, and severe penalties provided against inattention to them; but it always appeared to me, that the terms in which these laws were formed were stricter than necessary, and imposed a degree of trouble, which might have been better fulfilled in a less urgent and complicated manner. The consequence was, that the law was not observed to its full extent; and every property assumed those measures best calculated, in the opinion of the overseer, to meet their objects.

The well disposed negroes are generally so much interested for the possession of property, that there will be no trouble in prevailing on them to cultivate their grounds. With little assistance from the property to which they belong, every comfort and enjoyment will thus be secured to them, without those cares and distresses, the fate of the peasantry of free nations. But the negroes of indolent dispositions require the exercise of that judgment which should belong to every overseer, to prevail on them to look forward to their true interests; and, if they can be partially established, it is likely, in many instances, that self interest will stimulate to further exertions; and the negroes of that description, under wise management, will often become industrious decent people; while, under a system of harsh coercion, enforced by the whip, they would probably degenerate into idle plunderers and vagrants of the worst description.

The attachment of a negro to the estate, by raising his provisions on it, forming his connexions, and establishing his family in a comfortable manner, is the best indication of a sense of duty to himself and his master. It would be inhuman and impolitic to disturb a well-disposed negro, thus pursuing a life so well calculated to gain admiration; and it is disgraceful to our colour to conceive that tyrannical principles should so far gain their influence, as to enable any writer to produce facts to prove that such things have been done.

The white manager has, therefore, little trouble with the well-disposed industrious negro; but an arduous

task is imposed on him, when incorrigible and ill-disposed negroes fall under his charge. His best efforts are unavailing to render them useful to themselves or to their masters. They often become a nuisance to the other negroes on the plantation by nightly depredations; and it at length becomes necessary to have them removed from it, to be sold for transportation to another country.

That procedure against negroes who forfeit every claim to protection from their masters, ought not to be considered in any other view than that of expediency. When a negro has been afforded every opportunity to do well by those under whose management he had been, and, in place of conforming to those good habits of industry and conduct, by which other negroes have secured to themselves a comfortable establishment, becomes a thief, a robber, an incorrigible idler, committing his depredations by night, and is the terror of all the well-disposed, it is incumbent, for the protection of our good negroes, and as an example to the ill-disposed, to send him away. Such acts as he had been guilty of would have brought him to the gallows in Britain; but, by the measure adopted, he is removed to another island, where the terrors of his past conduct, and his being an utter stranger, may work a reformation in him.

Under the watchful observation of a sensible and humane proprietor or attorney, aided by the formation of laws to banish the existence of any abuse at present not forbidden by the laws, it is obvious that negroes in general, in the West Indies, are exceedingly comfortable.

They likewise enjoy advantages, of which some of the peasantry in the united kingdom cannot boast. While the property and family are unchanged, their houses, gardens, and provision grounds, are their inherent right. They cannot be removed from them by any earthly power. They are consequently improved from generation to generation. Every child born has his bread-fruit tree and others planted for him on birth; and we have frequent instances of their enjoying these fruits on every estate we happen to visit.

The sources of enjoyment in this life, so far as the negro is concerned, having been pretty fully discussed, and animadversions made on the few instances of improper treatment which I knew of in the course of about fourteen years, I shall take leave of that part of the subject with stating, that the provident care which proprietors desire their negroes to experience, does not end when their labours are no longer of use to them. Their old age is softened by the supply of those necessities of which they stand in need; and, if the aged have been fortunate enough to have any family alive, it is highly honourable to the negro character, that they meet every attention and affection which is peculiar to the most refined countries. Nay, more,—for, in the one, it is the uncultivated but amiable effusion of the heart,—in the latter, too frequently consisting of marked neglect, or officious adulation, for selfish purposes.

When we follow the negroes to the bed of sickness, we there find more generally considerable care bestowed on them. On plantations, the system of arrangement

for the sick cannot be in general admired, though the proprietor bestows liberally for that purpose. In acute diseases, we can secure every comfort for them, so much our wish, as professional attendants. In chronic diseases, a great deal has to be amended; and, for reasons so fully stated in the preliminary parts of this work, it is expected the evil will meet a radical remedy.

I cannot dismiss this part of my subject, without repeating how much more satisfactory it is to the practitioner to attend negroes under sickness in Spanish Town, where their wants and comforts in that state are attended to with such feeling and kindness by their masters and mistresses. It forms an admirable trait in the West India character, the provision thus made; and it cannot be alleged, even by the perverse, that interested motives lead to it. The aged, past labour of every kind, equally share their kindnesses,—the diseased, under the effects of a hopeless malady, have their tortures softened by that humane disposition which marks their conduct.

It is not unworthy of consideration to contrast these circumstances with the condition of the peasantry of the united kingdom about January 1817; and to consider maturely, whether the attribute of liberty, such as it is, complicated with other disadvantages of so deplorable a nature at this and other times, is not dearly purchased. The improved condition which I yet expect to hear that the negroes will enjoy, must render

their circumstances unobjectionable, and in very many respects preferable to any other description of labourers in the world.

I am persuaded that such improvement, while loudly called for, is inseparable from the best interests of proprietors. Let those who are most concerned step forward in the commendable spirit of improving the condition of negroes to that extent which safety admits of, and in that spirit of liberality which distinguishes the West India proprietors.

OBSERVATIONS

CONCERNING

EUROPEANS WHO GO TO THE WEST INDIES.

OBSERVATIONS

CONCERNING

EUROPEANS WHO GO TO THE WEST INDIES.

It is of considerable importance to Jamaica, as well as the other West India islands, to encourage a respectable description of our countrymen to emigrate thither; and perhaps no circumstance has proved so prejudicial to the character of humanity that ought to prevail in our colonies, as the room given to uninformed individuals to arrive at an extent of authority for which they are inadequate.

Young men from the united kingdom, of a superior description, well educated, and of cultivated habits, will most probably seek for employment in these islands, as that demand for them no longer exists for our navy and army; and some of those placed on half-pay, who have fought and bled for the great cause in which they

were triumphant, may turn for employment to these regions. Such adventitious changes in favour of the colonies, whose strength, defence, and character, must depend on the description of persons who inhabit the country, will have a tendency to work a change highly favourable; and, on every principle, it is the duty of proprietors to encourage that prosperity and care of them they so well merit.

When the European has determined on turning his speculations towards employment to the West Indies, his first attention should be applied to the laying in an abundant stock of clothing; and it is more particularly adviseable to do so, because, on arriving in that country, they are sometimes not to be procured; if they are, of an inferior quality, and at an extravagant price. Some articles are not to be purchased at all in certain islands. Every circumstance, therefore, dictates the policy of purchasing and making up these things before departure from Europe; and, when the adventurer arrives, he has not to hurry himself about these necessary supplies.

Some distinction in the nature of clothing must be made, in reference to the kind of employment the young man is to follow on getting to that country. A clerk in a counting-house will require clothing of a different kind from that person who has to go through the superintending field attendance on a sugar or coffee estate. A good stock of linen shirts, from two to three dozen of day-shirts frilled, and six or more strong linen night-shirts, though not of so fine a texture,—fourteen

fine flannel shirts to wear next the body,—two dozen cotton drawers,—three dozen pairs cotton stockings,—overalls of loose and cool materials, to fall down over the upper part of shoes,—waistcoats of any number, according to the means he has of supplying them,—a coattee or two, and a dress coat of the best superfine cloth,—two or three well manufactured white or brown hats, pretty broad in the rim, without regard to fashion,—and a good cloke and umbrella, to defend himself from these torrents of rain that pour down with such violence in these countries.

The above are chiefly the articles of apparel which come more particularly within those views of preserving the health of Europeans, so much the wish and object of these remarks.

It is a difficult matter to decide on that kind of constitution best adapted to tropical countries. Opinions have been decidedly formed, and applied to certain persons, of a favourable and unfavourable nature; yet their results have proved very opposite. And, upon the whole, experience has taught us, that, with few precautions, those persons of whom we thought most unfavourably, have gone on as well as those we considered the most favoured by certain peculiarities of constitution.

It must, however, be impressed on the minds of Europeans, before they arrive in tropical climates, that reason, as well as experience, hold out certain rules of conduct, by which they ought to be guided on reaching them. The European, reared up under a cool and

temperate climate, in which he has hitherto existed, has a change to experience in Jamaica, or any other West India island, which will evidently require forbearance from many indulgencies he may be prone to, for a considerable time subsequent to his arrival. Indeed, during the passage, he should be attentive to avoid every thing having a tendency to disorder the stomach, or to obstruct the healthy secretions. Having these purposes in view, any disposition to confined bowels, to which there is a great tendency at sea, should be removed by laxative pills, provided before he goes on board, of which the two following are *formulæ* :—

For persons of more tender bowels, or easily operated upon,

Take of, The powder of jalap two drams,
Submuriate of mercury two scruples,
Compound cinnamon powder fifteen grains.

Mix them well; and, with the mucilage of gum-arabic, form a mass for forty-five pills, three to be taken at bed-time, or early of a morning; and repeated, if necessary.

Those who are constitutionally difficult to operate on, or, from bilious accumulations, require a more powerful cathartic, may carry with them the following pills:

Take of, Socotorine aloes two drams and a half,
Submuriate of mercury two scruples,
Ginger, in powder, one scruple.

Mix them into a mass, by the assistance of mucilage of

gum-arabic, and divide into fifty pills, three or four to be taken, as above.

While it is conceived that the laxative pills above directed, either the one or the other form, ought to be in possession of Europeans going out to the West Indies, it is far from my wish to raise any source of alarm in the minds of young men. On the contrary, it is requested to be fully understood as my opinion, that medicine should only be resorted to when particularly called for by an obstructed state of bowels. That habitual use of medicine which dabblers subject themselves to, on imaginary causes of complaint, must have a very bad tendency in entering upon such a climate; and I would particularly guard them against such propensities, as they are likely to overturn health, in place of procuring an accession of it.

When passengers get into the warm latitude, it would be well, if they have lived freely before, to drink much less, and never to indulge themselves in a habit too prevalent, of drinking malt and mixed liquors in the forenoon. They will probably overheat and derange every healthy enjoyment they had before. Impressed as I was with its impropriety, on my passage to the West Indies it was never indulged. It was decidedly found that one glass of wine, between breakfast and dinner, did away thirst more effectually than the repeated draughts I saw others take. The one was productive of comfort; the other produced flushed countenance, fever, and a degree of ebriety. The same resolution was ge-

nerally extended during my residence in the West Indies. I always advised it; and experienced its salutary consequences throughout my stay in Jamaica.

A new scene is opened to the European when he has reached the West Indies, with which he is more generally delighted; an uncommon flow of animal spirits is felt; the scenery is delightful; his anticipations of suffering from heat of climate are agreeably disappointed; and he sees before him a profusion of Nature's gifts, to gratify the eye and taste, which fills his sanguine mind with the most agreeable sensations. When the new comer of gentlemanlike manners has been introduced to any individual respectable inhabitant, it must be his own fault if he does not meet the most friendly and even caressing attentions. In his obtaining a competent outset every person feels an interest; and he will require prudence and fortitude to receive with discretion their kindnesses.

It is, however, at this season of his arrival at Jamaica, that he ought to consider how necessary it is to conform himself to self denial in many gratifications which the West Indies so abundantly supply; and particularly to consider, that exposure to the sun must naturally have a tendency to produce a variety of distressing effects. It is adviseable that these considerations may meet suitable attention from the exercise of reason, rather than from opinions unhappily formed, of apprehension that diseases peculiar to the climate are universally critical, and more commonly fatal to Europeans.

No impression on the mind of a new comer can be

more destitute of real foundation, or attended by consequences such as we would desire to avert, than such unlucky presentiments. So much depends on that prudential course of life, equally distant from excess and total privation of the good things of life, that the regimen which I would recommend to new comers of moderate desires, cannot lead them from the cheerful enjoyment of their friends; and it is believed, that rational society, while the new comer is yet unemployed, will always promote the enjoyment of health.

I would therefore desire particularly to impress on the mind of new comers, to preserve and encourage in themselves dispositions of a cheerful nature; and to conform themselves contentedly to the preliminary situations it is necessary to bustle through for some time, before they can arrive at preferment.

It is here peculiarly necessary to warn the new comer against an erroneous impression, which is formed by Europeans in setting out for the West Indies, that money making is to commence immediately after reaching the country. It must be confessed that, in Jamaica, there is greater advantage, in always finding the means of applying our industry to gain a livelihood, than in the certainty of accumulating a fortune. Direful experience of the difficulty to realise money, when it has been earned, has been too fatally experienced. The sources from which large fortunes can be accumulated are limited to a few, put into that tract by high interest, or fortuitous circumstances. Let the new comer, therefore,

by steady industry, obliging manners, and becoming submission to his circumstances, make friends to himself. His abilities will gain him promotion and respectability in time.

When the African slave trade supplied a considerable annual importation of negroes, it was customary for those who had a little money to lay it out in the purchase of a few slaves, which were progressively formed into jobbing gangs. The speculation sometimes succeeded; and money was thus accumulated, which rendered the proprietors of such gangs very independent; and they probably retired to Europe with their small but competent fortunes.

The possibility of earning any thing in the shape of independence is now almost done away, unless by the public officers of the government, the bar, attorneys of estates, attorneys at law, masters in chancery, registers of chancery, and some few instances of medical men, who regulate their payments once a-year.

It appears to me that, in such a country as Jamaica, where every meritorious and useful individual contributes essentially to the security and welfare of the island, the attorneyships of estates are improperly monopolised by a few. Their power is consequently exorbitant; their annual payments or commissions, so snugly secured to them, are immense; more, indeed, than any individual ought to have; while many others, of equal merit and capacity, are dragging on existence, without the most distant prospect of acquiring so much as to maintain

them at home, if want of health, or, what is equally pernicious, a longing to see the country of our birth (peculiar to the Scotch and Swiss), should direct them thither.

It cannot be imagined that, in noticing this subject, for the encouragement of new comers, I feel any other than the greatest respect for many of those gentlemen possessing concerns of an extensive nature in Jamaica, as attorneys of estates. But my opinion certainly is, that proprietors, in granting powers for managing their estates, should endeavour to seek for and reward individuals of great merit, who are, notwithstanding, unsupported by any other influence than what they thus gain. Considerations such as these become peculiarly necessary, when encouragements to go to the West Indies are not what they have been. And as this subject is, with much submission to proprietors, considered of vital importance to the good of the island, I would beg leave to call their serious attention to it.

I have diverged certainly from the title of this article. But as the observations made have some connexion with the condition of the newly arrived European, and his future prospects in the West Indies, I shall be happy that the good things of the island are more fairly divided, where merit, industry, and character are discovered.

To return, however, to my subject. No circumstance in the conduct of new comers has a greater relation to health than bodily cleanliness. When he continues in

his usual state of good health, both it and cleanliness will be best maintained by the occasional use of cold affusion of water. If by the sea-side, its water is preferable for that purpose; but, otherwise, fresh water, with some marine salt, may be substituted. The purposes of ablution should be effected as quickly as possible; and then the body rubbed up with a rough towel actively, so as to stimulate the vessels on the surface of the body.

It will contribute materially to health, to be able to afford clean flannel next the skin daily; and, in a warm climate, it is peculiarly a luxury to renew it. Many persons feel an objection to wearing it at all; and, until its salutary effects are considered, or experienced in the prevention of disease, it is seldom its introduction to use is well received, when ordered in the most pressing manner by medical men.

So far from increasing the heat of the body by the wearing of fine thin flannel, an opposite consequence is produced. That useful openness of the skin, which preserves a degree of moisture constantly on it, is promoted by having flannel next the body. It is absorbed by the flannel, without producing that cold wet feel which linen or cotton conveys; and the evaporation from flannel, under these circumstances, preserves an agreeable degree of coolness over the part of the body it envelopes, which could not possibly be the case if a cold wet surface were next the skin; for suppressed perspiration will cause febrile sensations, and produce a train of evil conse-

quences, even to the old residenter, which should be carefully avoided by every inhabitant of these islands.

I could enlarge to a greater extent on the practical instances of advantage experienced from flannel, and adduce many cases of distressing acute and chronic disease produced by its deficiency.

I conceive it, therefore, absolutely necessary to the preservation of the European's health in that country, to wear flannel next the body.

An officer of the army, who had been in service frequently, and advancing in years, informed me, that the washing of flannel jackets often injured their healthy properties materially; and he had, therefore, been in the habit of washing them very seldom. He changed as often as any man; but, when he put off a flannel jacket, it was immediately exposed to the breeze, in a dry situation, until, as he said, the wind had cleared it of the volatile materials it had imbibed. His servant then, with a small rod, switched it well; after that, it stood a short time exposed in the same manner, and was folded up, till wanted as a clean jacket.

The use of shirting is a very material article both of comfort and health in the West Indies. It is generally made up of either fine linen or cotton cloth; and, after trying both, I give the decided preference to linen, particularly when flannel is worn on the body.

There is a refreshing coolness produced by linen next to the skin in a warm climate: it has so many of the characteristics associated with real cleanliness, and pre-

serves its appearance throughout wear; while it appears to me the purposes of health are better fulfilled than by cotton, that I would advise the European to lay in such a stock as already mentioned.

Small clothes may be of cotton cloth, and the other articles suited to the fancy of the wearer. Cleanlines in apparel, and neatness in dress, is becoming in every man who wishes to maintain his immediate respectability, or looks forward to that improved condition, which a commendable ambition should always inspire him with in that country.

It is not to be omitted at this place to mention, that young men, acted upon by the artifices of negroes, disposed to consider their humility, and accommodating manners, to be accompanied by innocency of heart, think it unnecessary to observe that care of clothing we would do at home. Never, however, did he experience such artful deceitfulness as belongs to the negro in that respect. It must be made known early to the new comer, that he requires to be particularly on his guard against a kind of people, who, with the exception of a very few, are professedly and avowedly thieves; thinking it no crime to steal from one another, and a commendable part of their character to do so from *Buckra*, or White Man.

It will be no cause of offence to negroes to avow the necessity of this caution. The writer of this has known young men come to the country, well supplied by their parents, or themselves, with every article of use or

comfort for a West India climate; yet, from that carelessness to which young men so often become dupes, they were deprived of almost every article in the course of a month or two. The effrontery and cunning of these depredators it is seldom possible for a white man to fathom; and it is even well if locks and keys will defy them.

Having thus submitted some remarks on clothing, and a few other *minutiæ* of importance to the new comer, it will be attempted to submit what other observations suggest themselves, in the occupations of industry he is obliged to follow.

The sooner Europeans, on arriving in the West Indies, are occupied in that business to which their attention is to be in future turned the better; and the ostensible means of disposing of those who have no profession to follow, consists of employment in mercantile houses as clerks, or as book-keepers on sugar estates, coffee plantations, or penns.

Young men to be employed as clerks in mercantile houses will find it of considerable importance to be instructed at least in the French and Spanish languages, before they leave the united kingdom, as the commercial intercourse with both nations is considerable, particularly that of the latter with Cuba, Porto-Rico, St Domingo, and the vast continent of South America. If the rudiments of these languages have been acquired at home, great facility will be rendered to speak them perfectly and correctly. An advantage will be thus

held over those who trust only to intercourse with the persons of these countries for practical knowledge, without any previous foundation being laid for their grammatical principles. It is in this, as in all other acquirements connected with the languages; the one will be known as a classical and experimental scholar; the other, not having the previous advantage of any scholastic instruction, will pronounce an unconnected profusion of words, unpleasant to the ear, and from which any meaning is with difficulty derived.

It has been before noticed, that the occupation which passes under the designation of book-keeper is extremely indefinite; for with book-keeping, or even with the use of the pen, it has little or no relation. It would be more applicable therefore, as in the windward islands from Jamaica, to name the overseer the manager, and the book-keeper overseer. We must, however, for the present, abide by those names in use, and notice them accordingly.

Those persons who embark in the planting line as book-keepers, have an arduous duty to go through. It is, however, an apprenticeship in every respect, and they will rise or fall according to their own merits. There are circumstances connected with it, on well conducted estates, and under respectable employers, of an advantageous nature. They have board, bedding, and washing; a tolerable salary is attached to these, which (if a good stock of clothes is already laid in) will keep them comfortable, with little additional assistance. It is most

probably within their power, when necessary, to get some articles from home from their parents or relations; and these will be procured more readily, if they do not fail to keep up that friendly intercourse by correspondence so generally complained of by relations in Britain. It is indeed an ungrateful and unnatural return for kindness, not to comply with that desire of hearing from their friends in the West Indies, from time to time, when opportunities are afforded by monthly packets.

If clerks in mercantile houses in the towns enjoy a life of comparative ease, book-keepers on estates have an advantage, by living in the country, where a more open temperate atmosphere is enjoyed, plenty of exercise, and better living than clerks can afford from their salaries. It is for a humane and prudent overseer to regulate their labours, so as not to be prejudicial to health, and particularly not to expose their persons too much to the overpowering influence of a vertical sun, by obliging them to remain too long in the field, in attendance upon the gangs at work. That discretionary consideration in overseers is additionally imperative, when it is considered that the young book-keeper's presence in the field must be exclusively for his instruction in the planting system.

What has been said before of punishment to offending negroes, may be applied to this part of my observations on book-keepers. They should neither wish for a long time to be armed with the power of punishment; nor should the overseer place it in any other

hands than his own. Young men should always think with indulgence of the offences of a people, towards whom it would be acting a nobler part, to consider with sympathy their offences, rather than to act precipitately on measures of resentment towards them. To cultivate humane principles towards negroes, appears to me one of the first and best foundations for completing the education of a planter; and no book-keeper of a vindictive or cruel disposition should be recommended by his overseer as deserving of promotion.

An unlucky habit of debasement has established itself, by long custom, on estates, of book-keepers attaching themselves to mistresses, slaves on the estates. Precedent is the only shadow of justification on which such a degrading step can be pleaded; and as it is a shameful violation of decency, full of bad consequences, and uncalled for by any plea of expediency, young men should avoid forming connexions of the kind; and the thing should have no countenance from proprietor, attorney, or overseer.

The book-keeper being now supposed to be fairly set down on the estate, it will not only be his duty to submit with patience and fortitude to his business, but, what is of equal importance to his future welfare and happiness, to retain a reverence for those principles of conduct, and that propriety of religion, which his parents and other friends advised him to before he took his departure from Europe.

Such an admonition is peculiarly necessary to those

who emigrate to the West Indies, for reasons stated in several parts of this work. The habits of overseers are more frequently exemplary; and it is believed that those of a worthy description will feel an interest in the prosperity of young men placed under their care and instruction. There are, however, many circumstances connected with the customs of the country, which the young European should avoid conforming to: Associations with black women, who become, by perseverance, companions, as well as bed-fellows, independent of other considerations, are too repugnant to a reflecting and honourable mind to be reconciled to; at least, it may be presumed that, when it does, degradation has found admission; and, from one step to another, it is to be feared, will reach those practices, by which so many fine young men have been ruined in Jamaica.

Young men, on leaving Europe, generally possess a gentleness and propriety of manners, from which it should be a resolution in them not to depart, on account of any influence from bad example, to which they may be liable as book-keepers on estates, where there is an overseer of coarse uncultivated manners. Unlucky as they certainly are, if thus situated, let not that weakness and irresolution, so often destructive, of acting upon the example of such men, because instructed by them, induce book-keepers to imitate and affect their habits, even if their riches were equal to that of Crœsus, and their patronage of a wide and extensive

nature. It is not the only way to gain the good will of such men, to stoop thus to their vices, and to follow them. Experience will afford many instances to shew that, even with men of that sort, unaffectedly genteel manners, a resolution not to depart from them, and corresponding decency of dress, will secure their esteem and patronage. It likewise affords some encouragement to gentlemanlike conduct and respectability, that negroes look up to such men with a degree of adulation, and exult in being governed by them.

It is an unfortunate circumstance to those who wish for good society in the interior of Jamaica, that there is little of the family kind; but there are some. Young men, of good conduct, aided by propriety of manner, may find admittance occasionally to their houses; and I know of nothing more desirable than to keep up that more rational intercourse of society which genteel families afford.

The book-keeper may render himself additionally comfortable, by being in habits of kindness with the estate negroes, who are partly under his authority. There is a necessity for reserve with them, which the good sense of most young men will soon discover. Their artfulness, deceit, and thievish practices, must be prevented. It is wise to consider the best of them capable of theft when they have it in their power; and they are not ashamed of it; it is all fair against *buckra*, or white man. But that trait of character should be viewed with indulgence. It is so. Their good will and

esteem will be gained by respectable appearance, and occasional kind acts; opportunities for which sometimes present to the book-keeper in charge of stores, or superintending them in the field.

If young men unfortunately happen to be placed with a vindictive manager or overseer, he has a difficult duty to struggle against. The intemperate punishment of negroes first discovers the overseer's cruelty; and the book-keeper has to fear that, under such a man, so far as his power extends, he will extend the rigours of his authority; and, instead of contemplating an abrupt removal, it is the book-keeper's policy and duty to do any thing in the shape of removal from an unpleasant estate, with the full consent of his employer, the attorney or proprietor, whoever he may be; and it should be remembered that, as in every apprenticeship, we have to encounter hardships, and must submit to them, it is better to put up with some, rather than complain; for it is certain that no favourable impression is formed of young men, who, on complaints of an insignificant nature, request to be removed from one estate to another.

There prevails a power on the part of overseers, so much affecting book-keepers, and, in my opinion, so extremely abused, that I cannot omit taking some notice of it; I mean that discretionary power of dismissing book-keepers in a summary manner, without the approbation of proprietor or attorney. The good sense and discretion of overseers should lead them seldom to

make use of so great a privilege; and it must be acknowledged, that we have known it so improperly exercised, to the ruin of some young men, who would have otherwise proved an ornament to society, that it should be abandoned to that oblivion such an arbitrary power deserves. A submission of complaint, by an overseer to his employer, of a book-keeper, who has in some slight matter offended, would be much more consistent with a rational and humane line of conduct. If a removal must take place, he can be handed over from one estate to another, instead of being suddenly deprived of a home by the resolve of an overseer. Though it can scarcely admit of excuse it often happens, that young men, thus discharged from employment, resort to the tavern to indulge in excesses, and form acquaintances which lead to his destruction.

Persevering attention, steadiness, and indications of a judicious and humane mind, will in three or four years qualify the book-keeper to be promoted to the situation of overseer to an estate. The transition is sudden; because, from being under authority, an extensive and almost unlimited controul is placed in his hands.

The dispositions of negroes are unfortunately of that nature as to fall on many perplexing plans to find out the weaknesses of an overseer recently appointed from being a book-keeper; and it is due to truth to add, that some of them must experience severe punishment before they will be persuaded to give up their opinions. When the young overseer has convinced them that,

though disposed to be humane, he will punish criminality with exemplary severity, the negroes will in future be obedient, dutiful, and respectful towards him.

It remains only for me to convey some hints to new comers on the preservation of health in our West India islands; and on this subject my opinion is, that much ought not to be hazarded. Let medical assistance on estates be respectable, and the intercourse between professional men and new comers be easy. It is of material consequence, indeed, that every well conducted young man should consider the plantation doctor his friend; and purposes very material to the preservation of health, and the prospects of recovery under illness, will be thus accomplished.

Some precautions against exposure to extreme heat of the sun, getting wet, attention to bodily cleanliness, &c. have been already given in previous parts of this work. That attention necessary to keep the bowels in an open state during the passage to the West Indies, is still more so after arriving there, exposed, as planters must be, to the exciting causes of bilious accumulations, obstructions in the biliary passages, and slight febrile accessions from change of climate.

An overseer, who has that friendly feeling to his book-keepers which he ought to have, will apply that sagacity afforded to him by experience, to send for medical assistance whenever it is necessary; and, in the meantime, it will be adviseable, until it arrives, to have the pills prescribed in the second *formula* (p. 240) administered to act on the bowels smartly.

It would be a vain attempt, and very probably an injurious one, to offer rules for further treatment, where a variety of symptoms are peculiar to whatever cases occur. And addressing, as I am, many unconnected with professional vocations, it is more desirable, when time will permit, to form my observations hereafter to be made, a professional work only.

I shall therefore conclude the observations on this head, with my earnest and best wishes for the respectability and prosperity of the young men who have that ardent disposition to do well, which carries them to a distant and foreign climate. When they have succeeded in honourably accumulating circumstances of independence, it will be one of the greatest of consolations to reflect, that humanity and justice to negroes were always leading rules of conduct with them; and the world must pronounce them worthy of the good fortune that has arisen from their industry.

ON THE

MAL DE ESTOMAC,

OR

STOMACH EVIL.

ON THE

MAL DE ESTOMAC,

OR

STOMACH EVIL.

THE reader is already acquainted with the destructive nature of this disease, which more frequently defies our best exertions to cure it; and, when it has once established itself among a gang of negroes, we cannot possibly calculate on the extent of its ravages.

Negroes are very liable to affections of the mind, which constitute diseases of various kinds; but though all the remote causes for such a disposition should be averted, and every circumstance which can have a tendency to affect the mind severely, avoided, notwithstanding every precaution, a deserving and humane master had observed, that disorder will find its way among negroes sometimes, and sweep away a great proportion of the gang.

It has been observed that, on estates where the establishments of negroes are extremely comfortable, this disease is seldom if ever discovered. On a property of that description, we have rather to fear the lurking and concealed practices of Obi, the superstitiously depressing consequences of threats from a negro of weight and influence on the estate, against a negro not aware of the futility of such pretensions.

It requires judgment, experience, and an acquired knowledge of the iniquitous kind of sorcery carried on by these Obi characters, to discover their practices, and to bring them to exemplary justice. They are not only the authors of deliberate murder, but it is by a slow procedure, and extends itself to the gang, as already mentioned.

Though the cause of *mal de estomac* may be often traced to sources which enable us to arrest its progress, we have found that, on mountain settlements, where negroes are much exposed to cold and wet, they sometimes begin to appear uncomfortable; a temperature foreign to that which contributes either to health or their enjoyments, without any hopes of a change, affects them with depression of spirits, languor, and listlessness, disposition to extreme indolence, from which there is scarcely a possibility of rousing them to exertion, laborious breathing, inability to ascend a hill, any attempts to do so accompanied by evidently increased palpitation of the heart, and, in more advanced progress of the disorder, under the *cartilago en si formis*, or pit

of the stomach, throbbing of the *aorta descendens*. When the patients are oppressed by that condition, appetite declines, a puffed appearance takes place over the body, particularly in the face; the eyes are partially obscured, from effusion in the cellular substance; when an attempt to stand up or walk is made, they are obliged to lay down, from giddiness and weakness; increasing debility makes rapid progress, until this distressing affection terminates most commonly in death.

The prevalence of the disorder in our West India islands has been extensive; and it is evidently a disease of relaxation, accompanied by an impoverished state of the blood. The tongue and other parts discover this. But it is particularly manifested, if we examine the inner membrane of the eye-lids, where, in a state of health, the vessels are of a healthy red appearance, but are now changed to a pale almost colourless fluid.

When the ignorance and superstition of these poor creatures are not morbidly influenced by the diabolical arts of designing negroes, who have the destruction of their own colour in view, as well as the ruin of their master, it is generally imagined that these symptoms are occasioned by dirt eating, that is, the eating of various soils, such as the common soil or clay. They are supposed to prefer cretaceous or absorbent earths; but the plaster they can secretly pick from the inner walls of the rooms in which they are confined, seems to be equally acceptable; and it does not appear to me to be an opinion founded on fact, that, on account of an acid

secretion, in place of the salutary gastric liquor, absorbent earths are preferred to any other. In some instances, the desire for eating earthy materials constitutes a part of the disease; in others, the patient's object is self destruction; and any earthy materials to be found are eagerly sought after.

The inconsistent and perplexing dispositions of some negroes, cannot be controuled or brought under due guidance, when self destruction is their object, by the kindest efforts of a master or overseer. It is, however, conceived, that an unfavourable climate, indifferent food, and imperfect clothing, in a part of the country adverse to the preservation of their health, are more generally the sources of the disease.

We have seen every symptom of *mal de estomac* in negroes, without being able to discover that they were also dirt eaters. It is certain, indeed, that all the symptoms described have existed without their being guilty of it; and it is equally an incontrovertible fact, that negroes in perfect health, to appearance, have indulged a propensity to its *moderate use*, without affecting them by disease.

It also appears, from experience, that the predisposing sources of the disease are not promoted by their accompanying them with dirt eating. They are more commonly observed to resort to it, after its being partly constituted; and it then accelerates the fatal consequences which so generally ensue.

I have already observed, in a previous part of the

work, that females attacked by it were generally alleged to be obstructed at their regular periods of menstruation; but many cases occurred where that evacuation went on in the usual manner. In some, however, it was the reverse; and it became a very important part of our indications of cure to restore them if possible.

The negroes of certain African countries have been mentioned as peculiarly disposed to the disease; and, if the peculiarities of constitution of these are duly considered, and timeous remedies administered, we will often succeed in removing the disorder, by kind treatment, good diet, and clothing.

The secrecy with which designing negroes, hostile to their masters interest, and probably offended at some individual of a gang, of which there are many on the estate, will carry on the influence they possess, by effecting the destruction of the whole, is dreadful; yet certain it is, that the superstitious adoration and terror they inspire, has frequently had that effect; and the assistance of poison has been surreptitiously obtained.

It is on occasions of that nature we might avail ourselves of an opinion, not unfrequently met with among negroes, that the powers of these Obi men over them are effectually arrested by getting baptized; and, if that ceremony is decidedly found to form a serious part of the patient's wishes, with a more certain view to recovery, and to blast the spell of sorcery, the measure cannot be too soon adopted. A few selected principles

of Christianity might be conveyed to the mind in comfortable terms; but particularly by impressing how impossible it is for any Christian to suffer by the contemptible powers of Obi. It is also a fortunate object to have those ideas fully established on the negroes minds; for, not until they conceive themselves defended by Christianity, will they discover their suspicions, or more direct agency, for the purposes of destruction, by Obi men or women.

It is, therefore, obvious that, in a disease more destructive and lamentable than any other to which negroes are liable, we have it in our power, on many occasions, to act materially towards the removal of it, by averting that state of mind which so powerfully tends to produce it.

It has been found to exist, without the slightest reason to believe that eating the soil formed a part of the aggravating sources; but more generally it is known, that they eagerly seek for and obtain it, by every art of which they are capable. Many devices have been tried, and very improperly; some of them of a nature to bear more heavily on the dejected condition of mind, whose agency is the most formidable evil we have to counteract. Inventions to prevent the admission of such materials to the mouth have been used; but, from the ingenuity, and ardent desire for dirt which the wearers felt, and found means to introduce, they were rendered futile. I would be disposed, at any rate, to disapprove of them, because they prove

an additional source of unhappiness to the already too unfortunate negro.

Change of scene seemed to me to be always followed with more or less advantage; to the sea side, if possible, during the season of sea breezes; and, as our efforts must be directed to prevent dirt eating, without harshness, so far as it can be possibly avoided, I know of nothing more likely to answer these purposes, than a floating hospital, where it is impossible for them to procure it. Such an establishment was formed by Dr Chamberlaine of Kingston; but whether his speculations succeeded I am not informed. They certainly deserved it; for, if good diet, and other obvious cares, were bestowed on negroes in that state, on board of a floating hospital, the pure air, the excellent pots of fresh fish, and other advantages, appear to me to be more likely to cure the disease than any other means I have known.

The observations hitherto made have been applied to grown up people, or those arrived fully at puberty. But the destructive disposition to dirt eating is met with sometimes in children. Its consequences are equally ruinous; and we observe it at so early a period among those who become wormy, and are not attended to; the children of worthless parents, who have not reared them up with attention, either to wholesome food or cleanliness. They are often of an hereditary scrophulous constitution, look rickety and tabid, with large projecting foreheads, sometimes connected with internal dropsy of the brain.

Such a constitution as described, when neglected, or left to the care of worthless parents, will accumulate other alarming disorders; and, on all occasions, it is surely the duty of those persons who superintend estates, to take special care of the rising strength, to which it must now look forward to supply the place of those who must retire from the labours of the field. If due attention is given to nursing, even a feeble infant, of unhealthy parents, we know that a healthy, if not vigorous constitution, may be formed; and, when the stage of suckling the infant is past, the child should be placed under good care. The overseer, according to a praiseworthy custom on some estates, can direct the presence of all the children at the hour of dinner, when they may be provided with a good mess of pepperpot; and, by these easy means, he can perceive from their looks whether they enjoy health, or otherwise.

As a preventive against the destructive disease of dirt eating in children, the overseer, and occasionally the plantation doctor, might look at them; and it would be particularly adviseable to observe whether there is a scaly appearance of the head, thinness of the hair, flabbiness of the skin of the face, increased hollowness about the eyes, a dirty yellow in place of pure black colour, increased throbbing of the temporal artery, a white furred tongue, paleness of the vessels on the inner membrane of the eyelids, thinness of the body, but enlargement of the abdomen. Such a state, partly or wholly, would indicate a disposition to dirt eating in young people, which nothing can probably prevent, but

early detection, and adopting a plan of treatment, with regard to medicine, diet, exercise, cleanliness, and improved clothing, which admits of no delay whatever.

When we have tried every plan to subdue the disease without any success, it very generally terminates in hydropic affections, whether in the young, or those more advanced in life. It is impossible to say at what period of the disease that may take place. We have seen negroes leading on an unmeaning and slothful existence for one or two years, without any hopes of recovery; but it more frequently happens, that two or three months will be its course, and I have known as many weeks terminate it fatally.

I have thought it necessary to place these observations in a more connected shape than my narrative admitted of. But, as it contains some cases of the practice pursued, I must refer my readers to the article *Stomach-evil*, in the index, where the practice followed will be more particularly seen.

To my remarks at that time I have nothing further to add; only to express my concern that the disease is not more within the power of our treatment.

There is, however, an opinion deeply convincing in my mind, that the minuter attentions which will be practised hereafter in the West Indies, on account of the abolition of the African slave trade, must lead to the observance of every thing directly or indirectly tending to the preservation and increase of negro population; and as the field is wide for improvement, we

will cherish the hope, that such a disease as *mal de estomac*, stomach evil, or dirt eating, from mental affections, and other causes, within the controul of managers to prevent, may yet have no existence in the list of maladies to which negroes are at present liable.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PRACTICABILITY OF ESTABLISHING CHRISTIANITY

AMONG

NEGROES IN THE WEST INDIES.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PRACTICABILITY OF ESTABLISHING CHRISTIANITY

AMONG

NEGROES IN THE WEST INDIES.

The island of Jamaica has been represented as a country in which the Christian religion is little attended to; and practical proof has been produced that, throughout all descriptions of society, it is lamentable to think how degenerated our own countrymen are found, from the principles they were most probably taught before they left the homes of their fathers.

That degeneracy materially falls within the sphere of observation, on account of its proving the greatest obstacle to civilization which the Christian teacher has to combat among negroes.

It has been attempted, in the narrative, to shew that negroes naturally entertain a great respect for those who are devoted to religious duties; and a reason can be given for it, applicable to their feelings, and extremely honourable to their dispositions, upon which so little trouble has been bestowed. They so far discriminate, as to observe, that persons who are regular in attendance on church are more exemplary in their general conduct than others. The greatest marks of respect are conferred by negroes on such persons, but particularly on those individuals of the clergy who pursue a line of conduct befitting their holy office.

The negroes who have been exported from Africa to the West Indies have been more generally the captives of warfare, who, by chiefs, sometimes undertake, for corrupt purposes, to supply the slave factors on the coast, and thus to fill up the iniquitous cargoes of the Guinea traders. The state of barbarity under which these unfortunate people lived in their own country, and the unlimited power of chiefs to dispose of their lives or persons, if we can separate any thing in the shape of freedom from that slavery into which they are kidnapped, when sold to the British trader, it is, by affirming that their condition is improved on their arrival in the colonies. No man, in the exercise of his reason, would hesitate to say, that every comfort and privilege, valuable to existence, is better secured to them under the laws of a British colony, and under a master who has the welfare of his negroes much more in his mind than any thing else in which he is concerned.

For the purpose of affording my readers a clearer idea of the materials upon which the ministers of religion have to act, I expect I shall stand excused, in making copious extracts respecting the natives of Africa; and the public will, from thence, be better enabled to judge how far those teachers are likely to succeed among Africans in the colonies.

"The barbarous state in which the African continent state is, subjects it to additional misery, on account of the arbitrary nature of any thing in the shape of government; for, whether the despotic sovereign ascends the throne by that claim to which birth entitles him, or by election, the people will have no other law but his will.

"Among the many powers into which the interior of Africa is divided, there are unceasing wars, either for protection or the purposes of booty. The negroes are, therefore, of warlike habits, and in general extremely cruel. They are strangers to those generous principles of conducting war which the Europeans follow; but their contests are short and decided: for they have no magazines; and the want of subsistence would oblige them to retire. The day after the battle, each side redeems their respective prisoners. They are exchanged for merchandise or for slaves. No portion of the territory is ever ceded. The whole entirely belongs to the community, whose chief fixes the extent which every person is to cultivate, in order to reap the fruits of it.

"Unanimity between the more considerable powers

and the lesser states, is preserved as much by the immense authority the prince hath over his subjects, as by the impossibility there is of his exerting it as he pleases. He can strike but one blow at once. He may indeed give orders that his lieutenant should be assasinated, and the whole province will strangle him at his command; but were he to order all the inhabitants of a province to be put to death, no one would obey him; and his will would not suffice to arm another province against them. His power against individuals is unlimited; but he can do very little against the collective body.

"These people annex no glory to the idea of conquests. The only person who appears to have been animated with it was a slave-broker, who, from his infancy, had frequented the European vessels, and who, in his riper years, made a voyage to Portugal. Every thing he saw and heard fired his imagination, and taught him that a great name was acquired frequently by being the cause of great calamities. At his return into his country, he felt himself greatly humiliated at being obliged to obey people less enlightened than himself. His intrigues raised him to the dignity of chief of the Acanis; and he prevailed on them to take up arms against their neighbours. Nothing could oppose his valour; and his dominion extended over more than an hundred leagues of the coast, of which Anamboa was the centre. At his death, nobody dared to succeed him; and all the supports of his authority

ceasing at once, every thing resumed its former situation.

"The Christian and Mahomedan religion seem to have taken possession of the two extremities of that part of the west coast of Africa which is frequented by the Europeans. The Mussulmen of Barbary have carried their religious system to the people of the Cape de Verd islands, who have extended it still farther. In proportion as these religious opinions have been at a distance from their source, they have undergone so great an alteration, that each kingdom, each village, each family, maintained a different system. Excepting circumcision, which is universal, one would hardly imagine these people possessed the same worship.

"Towards the end of the fifteenth century, the Portuguese established a mode of worship, from the country of Bengacla to Zara, which offered sure and easy means for the expiation of all crimes. It was perfectly agreeable to the taste of nations whose religion did not afford them such comfortable prospects. If it was afterwards proscribed in several states, the violence of those who propagated it drew upon it this disgrace. It hath been even totally disguised in the countries where it has been preserved: a few trifling ceremonies are the only remains of it.

"The coasts, from the country of Bengacla to Zara, have preserved some local superstitions, which have been very ancient. They consist in the worship of that innumerable multitude of divinities which every person

makes after his own fancy, and for his own use. There are some superstitions more dangerous, I mean that blind confidence which they repose in the priests, who are the ministers and promoters of them. These have the sacred deposit of the national traditions, and pretend to prophecy. The correspondence they hold with the evil spirits makes them regarded as the supreme arbiters of the barrenness and fertility of the country. Under this pretence, the first fruits are always offered to them. All their other errors have a social tendency, and conspire to render men more humane and peaceable.

"There is a greater variety in their manners than in their wants. On the banks of the Niger, the women are generally handsome, if beauty consists in symmetry of proportion, and not in colour. Modest, affable, and faithful, an air of innocence appears in their looks, and their language is an indication of their bashfulness. The names of Zilia, Calypso, Fanny, Zanica, which seem to be names of pleasure, are pronounced with an inflexion of voice, of the softness and sweetness of which our organs are not capable. The men are of a proper size; their skin is as black as ebony, and their features and countenances are pleasing. The habits of taming horses and hunting wild beasts gives them a manly and dignified air. They do not put up easily with an affront; but the example of those animals they have reared inspires them with boundless gratitude for a master who treats them with indulgence.

"The complexion of the Africans degenerates towards the east. Most of the people of this climate are strong, but short. They have an air of strength, which is denoted by firm muscles; and the features of their faces are spread out, and have no expression. Their wives share all their labours, except that of fishing. They have neither the agreeableness, modesty, discretion, nor beauty of the women of the Niger; and they appear to have less sensibility. Their language is harsh and dry; their vivacity, even in pleasure, resembles the furious transports of anger.

"Beyond the river Volta, in Benin, and in the other countries known under the name of Golden Coast, the people have a smooth skin, and are of a dark black colour; their teeth are beautiful; they are of a middling stature, but well shaped; and they have a bashful countenance. They believe that, in whatever place they remove to, or wherever they are transported, they shall return, after their death, whether occasioned by the laws of nature or by their own hands, to their own country. This conviction constitutes their happiness; because they consider their country as the most delightful abode in the universe. This people have a disposition to cheerfulness not observable in the neighbouring nations. They are inclined to labour; have a lively imagination, a solidity of judgment, principles of equity, seldom altered by circumstances, and a great facility of adapting themselves to foreign manners.

"The people between the Line and Zaire have all

a great resemblance to one another. They are well made. Their bodies are less robust than those of the inhabitants to the north of the equator. Their food is simple, and their life frugal; they love ease; and never labour boyond their strengh. Their feasts are accompanied with military sports, which revive the idea of our ancient tournaments; with this difference, that, in Europe, they constituted the exercises of a warlike nation, whereas, in Africa, they are the amusements of a timid people. Upon the most trivial occasions, they fly to their friends, either to congratulate or to condole with them. The funeral obsequies of a person of distinction continue sometimes two years. Those who were connected with him in any degree carry his remains about through the several provinces. The crowd gathers as they proceed; and no person departs till the corpse is deposited in the tomb, with all the demonstrations of the deepest sorrow.

"From Zaire to the river of Coanza the ancient customs still prevail. But they are blended with a confused mixture of European customs, which are not to be found elsewhere. It is natural to suppose that the Portuguese, who have large settlements in this country, and who were desirous of introducing the Christian religion among them, had a greater intercourse with them than they had with other nations, who, having only factories to the north of the line, have been employed in nothing but their commerce."

The following detail, copied from the same author, the Abbé Raynal, is given, to shew that African negroes are not incapable, by their natures, of those feelings of generosity and humanity which other nations would exclusively claim, and deny them any share of.

"An English ship that traded in Guinea, in 1752, was obliged to leave the surgeon behind them, whose bad state of health did not permit him to continue at sea. Murray (so the surgeon was named) was then endeavouring to recover his health, when a Dutch vessel drawing near the coast, put the blacks in irons, whom curiosity had brought to the shore, and instantly sailed off with the booty.

"Those who interested themselves for these unhappy people, incensed at so base a treachery, instantly ran to Cadjoe, Murray's host, who stopped them at his door, and asked them what they were in search of. "The white man who *is with you*," replied they, "*who should be put to death, because his brethren have carried off ours.*" "The *Europeans*," answered the generous host, "*who* have carried off our countrymen are barbarians; kill them, whenever you find them. But he who lodges with me is a good man; he is my friend; my house is his fortress; I am his soldier; and I will defend him. Before you can get at him, you shall pass over my body. O! my friends, what just man would ever enter my doors, if I had suffered my habitation to be stained by the blood of an *innocent man?*" This discourse ap-

peased the rage of the blacks. They retired, ashamed of the design that had brought them there. And some days after acknowledged to Murray himself how happy they were that they had not committed a crime, which would have occasioned them perpetual remorse.

" By one of those inexplicable contradictions of the human heart, though common to all people, whether civilized or not, negroes, though naturally cowards, give many proofs of an unshaken firmness of soul. The same organization which subjects them to servitude, from the indolence of their mind, and the relaxation of their fibres, inspires them with vigour and unparalleled resolution for extraordinary actions. They are poltroons all their life time, and heroes for an instant. One of these wretches has been known to cut his wrist off with the stroke of an hatchet, rather than purchase his liberty, by submitting to the vile office of an executioner.

" Their organs are extremely sensible of the powers of music. Their ear is so true, that, in their dances, the time of a song makes them leap up and come down, an hundred at once, at the same instant striking the earth. Enchanted as it were with the voice of the singer, or the tone of a stringed instrument, a vibration of the air is the spirit that actuates all the bodies of these men. A sound agitates, transports, and throws them into ecstacies. In their common labours, the motion of their arms or their feet is always in cadence. Music animates their courage, and rouses them from their indolence."

These extracts appear to me to assist our inquiries materially, by informing us what the constitution of body and mind are whereon the Christian instructor has to exercise his efforts. The universal ecstasies produced in the performance of their music, would lead to considerable hopes that, wisely introduced as a part of divine worship, in which they might join, associated with appropriate hymns, &c. an effect far more favourable than could be obtained otherwise might be accomplished.

It may be reasonably inferred, from any thing we know of the African character, that, where Mahomedanism has not established itself in a powerful degree, the Christian religion has every probability of being progressively introduced. By the efforts of late years, considerable advances have been made in this laudable work; and as the abolition of the slave trade has taken place, so far as the British are concerned, that great measure on the part of the empire should pledge it likewise to civilize the Africans, otherwise the abolition to them will be more a misfortune than a blessing.

To the colonies in the West Indies negroes were imported without receiving almost any information of their destiny before their actual arrival. On the negro mind, such as we know it to be, we may imagine under what apprehensions, doubts, and fears, they must have been. Every part of their conduct indicated feelings at first of agitation, and sometimes of despair. To reconcile their minds to a situation so much better than they an-

ticipated, only required the benevolent explanation of their circumstances by some of their own country, aided by the acts of kindness which a master or mistress are unceasingly bestowing on them. Feelings of respect and regard are thus formed between masters and negroes, by means of which the negro may be rendered tractable, and to look up for example to his proprietor.

The communication thus constituted between negroes and whites, if conducted with due regard to every interested motive which should guide whites in the management of negroes, would likewise serve to establish opinions of moral obligation, which might be successfully followed up, by instilling into their minds the propriety of Christian devotion.

It must be admitted that, in the colonies, if the morals of the people are not exemplary, the observance of religious duties are still less so. The operation of such an existing state of things in a country, the people of which would arrogate to themselves the designation of Christians, is of a nature so culpable and criminal, that to that cause principally are we to ascribe the destructive line of conduct followed by our negroes, affecting their lives and health, and the ultimate interest of those who are certainly the source of such evils.

Negroes have not, therefore, that line of conduct set before them by the white population of the islands, likely to produce wholesome and radical amendment in their habits and dispositions; and though, in the course of my narrative, it has been shewn that negroes form a

high respect for the religion of our church, and can only entertain doubts on it, owing to that unceasing disregard to its duties, by those who should hold out an example so much the reverse of what they do, it is a natural consequence of the condition of their minds to conclude, that so many sincere converts to Christianity cannot be made, as in a community differently constituted in respect to religious observances.

Notwithstanding circumstances so adverse to the diffusion of Christianity among negroes, we will find many converts of exemplary character, faithful servants, more trust-worthy than they had been before, and particularly distinguished among the other negroes as persons deserving of their highest respect.

There is, in my opinion, no circumstance so formidable to the more extended prevalence of Christianity among negroes, as that conduct, to which an allusion has been made, on the part of the white inhabitants, who treat the observance of the Sabbath with a violation of its most sacred duties, and, by the established customs of the island, a day of marketing, labour, dancing, and excesses of every kind.

If the amiable example of the most exalted lady in Jamaica (in 1806–7), of course fully sanctioned by her gallant lord, had been attended to in that light of which it was so deserving, the heads of families would profit by conduct so truly pious, while it had the additional force of being set by the first rank in the island. That excellent lady was so impressed with the duties

and now furnishes perhaps the finest example in the world of devotion to the Supreme Being, I cannot persuade myself to believe their sincerity. On such a point, the united efforts of proprietors associated in London to establish firmly the observance of Sunday and other Christian duties would be highly honourable to them; and I fear that, without their effectual interposition, local laws will be formed, which will by no means answer the purposes for which they were intended.

From Mr Bryan Edwards' History of Jamaica and the West Indies, the following interesting narrative on the subject of negro conversion to the Christian religion is taken.

"The Church of the United Brethren (Moravians) have, ever since the year 1792, been active in preaching the Gospel to different heathen nations in many parts of the world, but not with equal success in all places. The method here described and made use of by the missionaries in the said church, in leading the negro slaves in the West Indies to the knowledge and practice of Christianity, is followed, in all points that are not local, by all the missions of the brethren.

"After many years of unsuccessful labour, experience has taught them that the plain testimony concerning the death and passion of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, together with its cause and happy consequences, delivered by a missionary, touched with an experimental

sense of it, is the surest way of enlightening the benighted minds of the negroes, in order to lead them afterwards, step by step, into all truth. They, therefore, never make it a rule to enter into an extensive discussion of the doctrines of God's being an infinite spirit, of the Holy Trinity, &c. nor to seek to open their understandings in those points, until they believe in Jesus; and the word of the Cross has proved itself the power of God into salvation, by the true conversion of their hearts. Both in the beginning and progress of instruction, the missionaries endeavour to deliver themselves as plainly and intelligibly to the faculty of their hearers as possible; and the Lord has given his blessing even to the most unlearned that went forth in reliance upon him, to learn the difficult languages of the negroes, so as to attain to great fluency in them. One great difficulty arises, indeed, from the new ideas and words necessary to express the divine truths to be introduced into them; but even this has been surmounted through God's grace.

"As it is required of all believers that they prove their faith by their works, the brethren teach, that no habit of sin, in any land or place, nor any prevailing custom whatever, can be admitted as a plea for a behaviour not conformable to the moral law of God given unto all mankind. Upon the fulfilment of this the missionaries insist everywhere. Every thing that is accounted virtuous and decent among Christians is inculcated upon the minds of the people. Drunkenness, adultery, whoredom, sorcery, theft, anger, and revenge, and all other works of

the flesh, as enumerated by our Lord and his Apostles, as proceeding from the heart, being plain proofs that man is either unconverted, or again fallen into heathenism and idolatry, it follows, of course, that any one guilty of these things is put away from the congregation, and not admitted again, before a true and sincere repentance is apparent, and the offence done away. But it is not sufficient that the believers abstain from open scandal. Their private behaviour in their families, in every occurrence of life, must evidence a thorough change of heart and principles. Indeed, the believing negroes in Antigua, and in other places where the brethren have missions, are so much under the influence of their masters, and of a variety of circumstances that attend their being slaves, that it may perhaps seem more difficult to effect a change of customs and practices, and to enforce a steady Christain conduct in all cases amongst them, than amongst free heathen; and yet it must be owned, to the praise of God, that this is visible at present in many thousand converted negroes.

"The missionaries, however, have frequent occasion to see, with sorrow, how deeply rooted the habit of sin, and the tendency to excuse it, is in the minds of the negroes, who, when unconverted, are particularly given to an unbounded gratification of every sensual lust. But, on this very account, it becomes the more needful to watch, and not to suffer the least deviation from the right path to remain unnoticed in the believers. It has

been before observed, that baptism is administered to none but to such in whom a thorough conversion of heart is already perceivable. As soon as they are considered candidates for baptism, they are subject to the discipline of the church, by which, if they offend, and private admonition and reproof have not the desired effect, they are excluded from the fellowship of the rest, though they may attend public service; and every means is faithfully applied to bring them back. Thus, a communicant, in case of an offence given, is not admitted to the Lord's Supper. This discipline has, by God's blessing, had so good an effect, that many a believing negro would rather suffer the severest bodily punishment than incur it. If they confess their sins, and heartily repent, they are willingly, and, according to the nature of the offence, either privately, or in the presence of a part or the whole congregation, readmitted to the fellowship of the church. The believing negroes are not suffered to attend anywhere, where the unconverted meet, for the sake of feasting, dancing, gaming, &c.; and the usual plea of not entering into the sinful part of these diversions is never admitted, inasmuch as the least step towards vice and immorality generally plunges them by degrees into gross sins. The hankering after the vain traditions of their forefathers is considered as falling off from that love to the Lord Jesus Christ and his doctrines which once prompted them to foresake all ungodliness, and devote themselves unto God; and, if they persist in evil ways, the faithfulness

due to the rest of the flock, on the part of the missionaries, demands their separation, lest they seduce others."

"The prevalence of polygamy, so ingrafted in their habits, and so natural to their propensities, of course, caused no little embarrassment to the missionaries; and these dispositions were obviated by the following regulations.

"1. That they could not compel a man who had, before his conversion, taken more than one wife, to put away one or more of them, without their or her consent.

"2. But yet they could not appoint such a man to be helper or servant of the church; and,

"3. That a man who believeth in Christ, if he marry, should take only one wife in marriage; and that he is bound to keep himself only to that woman till death parts them.

"The instances that a man has three wives are few: all mistresses, of course, must be put away without exception; besides this, the missionaries lose no opportunity of inculcating into the minds of the married people how to walk in this state conformable to the rules laid down in holy writ; and every deviation from them is severely censured. If, by a sale of negroes by auction, or in any other way, wives are torn from their husbands, or husbands from their wives, and carried off to distant islands, though the brethren do not advise, yet they

cannot hinder a regular marriage with another person, especially if a family of young children, or other circumstances, seem to render a helpmate necessary, and, as is mostly the case, no hopes of the former ever returning. A certificate of baptism is given to every baptized negro that must thus leave the congregation; and there have been instances that, by their godly walk and conversation in distant parts, they caused others to hearken to their word, and believe. At the end of 1787, the number of converted negroes under the care of the brethren was,—

" In Antigua - - - -	5465
" In St Kitts (a new mission) - -	80
" In Barbadoes and Jamaica, about -	100
" In St Thomas, St Croix, and St Jan's, " about - - - -	10,000
" In Surinam, about - - -	400
" As near as possible, - -	16,045"

We have the following account of early attempts to introduce Christian habits to the island of Jamaica, from Crantz's History of the United Brethren.

" Some gentlemen from Jamaica, who possessed considerable estates in that island, having been impressed by the preaching of the brethren in London, and being informed of their labours among the heathen, especially in the Danish West India islands, requested Count

Zinzendorf, to send some missionaries to instruct their negroes in the principles of religion; and they mentioned in particular Zechariah G. Caries, whose sermons and conversation had been useful to themselves.

"Agreeably to their request, Zechariah G. Caries was sent to Jamaica in October 1754, with two others of the brethren as his assistants. The gentlemen who made the proposal were at the expence of supporting them. They built a house for them on a spot of ground, which they appropriated to the use of the mission, and they encouraged their slaves to come to them for instruction, by granting them full liberty for that purpose. In consequence, the negroes flocked to the brethren in such numbers, that, within little more than a year after the commencement of the mission, they amounted to about eight hundred, and of these twenty-six were already baptised. On the part of the white people, the missionaries scarcely met with any opposition; and even those few who were at first inclined to oppose them, had their prejudices removed, as soon as they heard them preach. They came in considerable numbers to hear the discourses of Caries to the negroes; but, as this was often a hindrance to him, in speaking to these poor untutored creatures, he began to preach to the white people separately; and there was ground to hope that he was instrumental in plucking some of them as brands from the fire.

"In 1757, there were five different plantations on which Caries preached the gospel to the negroes; the

number of the baptized amounted to seventy-seven; and, besides these, there were about four hundred catechumens. Encouraged by these auspicious circumstances, several other brethren were sent to the island; but these being of different sentiments from the first missionaries, and apprehending that many of the negroes had been two hastily baptized, introduced a system of greater strictness, and obliged the catechumens to wait longer for baptism. By this means, most of the negroes were so disheartened, that they drew back; and the harmony of the missionaries was so much interrupted, that they almost desisted from their labours.

"After the mission had remained for several years in a languishing state, it experienced a new revival in 1764. The brethren engaged in it being now united in their views with regard to the method of evangelising the negroes, their labours began to be crowned with considerable success. Such of the slaves as had formerly been baptized now returned to them; the number of their hearers was greatly augmented; and many of them appeared to be much impressed by the word. The brethren had now the care of the slaves on nine different plantations; and, in one of these, where, in the beginning of 1767, they had scarcely a hundred hearers, before the end of that year, the audience had increased to five hundred. Indeed, the number of negroes baptized in that and the following year amounted to upwards of two hundred and fifty.

"But pleasing as were the prospects of the mission

at that period, its progress was speedily checked; and for many years past it has been in a very languishing state. Of late, indeed, some of the principal planters in Jamaica have given the brethren considerable encouragement, and have undertaken to provide for the support of more missionaries; but still the work is attended with little success. In 1804, fifty years from the commencement of the mission, the whole number of negroes baptized by the brethren on that island amounted only to nine hundred and thirty-eight.

"Antigua furnishes the most exemplary zeal of any other of our islands in the West Indies, in the cause of promoting Christianity among the negroes.

"From the commencement of the work, in 1756, to the opening of the New Chapel at St John's in 1773, a period of seventeen years only, two hundred and ninety-five negroes were baptized. But, about that time, a general awakening began among the slaves; and has not only continued ever since, but has of late years been even on the increase. From 1773, until April 1805, the brethren baptized thirteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-six of the negroes, including both adults and children; and of these there were no fewer than six thousand two hundred and twenty-eight within the last twelve years; making the whole number, from the commencement of the mission, amount to fourteen thousand and ninety-one.

It appears, from a calculation made at the above period (1805), the brethren's congregations in Antigua

consisted of no fewer than eleven thousand eight hundred and twenty-four members.

"It is an important circumstance, that the prejudices which many entertained against the negroes learning to read have of late years begun to subside. This is an acquisition which many of these poor creatures are so eager to make, that notwithstanding the unfavourable nature of their situation as slaves, they have contrived to find means of learning to read, and even used to steal time for this purpose from those hours which others devoted to sleep. Encouraged by these circumstances, the brethren, in June 1810, opened a school in one of their settlements for teaching the negro children. They began with about eighty scholars; but, in the course of a month, the number increased to about six hundred. It was only kept on the Lord's day; and the elder children were employed in teaching the younger, on a plan similar to the Lancastrian system.

Extensive, however, as has been the success of the brethren at Antigua, the history of this mission affords none of those striking incidents which distinguish their labour in many other quarters, where they have been attended with much less success. Living under the protection of the British government, and encouraged by the white inhabitants of the islands, they have not had these dangers to encounter, nor those difficulties to surmount, to which many of their fellow missionaries in barbarous uncivilized countries have been exposed. In general, they have proceeded in a calm

uniform course, daily performing the ordinary duties of their office among the negroes, dispensing the word of life to them, catechising the children, seeking after the wanderers, visiting the sick, and administering comfort to them in their dying moments. Such circumstances as these are of the most important nature; yet, from their ordinary occurrence, they can afford but little interest to the reader.

"In the island of Antigua, there has not even been that mortality among the missionaries which has occurred in some others of the West India islands. Notwithstanding the size of their congregations, yet, from the commencement of the mission in 1756 to 1803, a period of forty-seven years, only thirty-seven brethren and sisters were employed in this island; a small number, compared with what were found necessary in many other quarters.

In 1765, two of the brethren went to Barbadoes, with a view of beginning a mission on that island. One of them, however, died immediately after his arrival; and another, who was sent to supply his place, followed him soon after to the grave; while the only one who survived, unhappily imbibed the love of the world, and neglected the chief design of the undertaking. The mission was therefore suspended for the present; but it was again renewed in 1767, by the arrival of Benjamin Brickshaw, who was soon after joined by another of the brethren. Having met with a very favourable reception from many of the principal people in this

island, they lost no time in commencing their labours amongst the negroes. In a short time, their house became too small for the numbers who attended on their instructions. They, therefore, purchased a building which had been burnt down, together with a garden, and fitted it up as a dwelling-house for themselves, and a meeting hall for the negroes.

" In September 1768, the brethren had the pleasure of baptising six of the negroes as the first of their labours; and it was not long before several others were added to their numbers. There were now four missionaries on the island; and as some of them were much employed in the way of their trades, and were on this account obliged to travel through the country, they found this method of gaining their livelihood greatly conducive to the grand object of the mission, as it afforded them an opportunity, in almost every place, of speaking to the negroes on the subject of religion. Indeed, the planters, who now perceived the good effects of their labours on the slaves, invited them to come and preach the gospel on their estates.

" Such was the promising aspect of the mission in Barbadoes; but it was not long before these pleasing prospects were unhappily over-clouded, and for many years it continued in a very languishing condition. In 1794, the whole of the baptized amounted only to seventy-five; most of them were also communicants; but, since that period, we have reason to think this number has been considerably augmented. And it is said that, on

Sabbath, the place of worship is now well attended, both by the negroes belonging to the congregation and by strangers.

"In 1798, one of the brethren, named Waller, together with his wife, embarked for this island on board a vessel from Bristol. After several fruitless attempts, they at last put to sea; but they were driven by contrary winds into Milford Haven. The wind, however, having shifted, they sailed again the following day, but were overtaken by so violent a storm, that the ship became perfectly unmanageable; and, after driving about at the mercy of the waves for some time, struck on a rock near the harbour of Kinsale, in Ireland. From three till seven in the evening, there appeared nothing before them but a watery grave; but as they were only about two hundred yards from land, the ebbing of the tide shewed them the possibility of escaping to shore. No sooner, however, had they made this discovery, than a gang of robbers, with worse than savage ferocity, rushed upon them with knives and hatchets, and fell to plundering them and the wreck, and even to threaten the lives of all on board. But at that instant a party of soldiers approached, and commenced a firing on the barbarous villians; five of whom were killed in the fray. In the midst of this horrid scene of confusion and distress, the passengers effected their escape to Kinsale. The ship, however, was entirely lost.

"In 1798, the united brethren sent John Montgomery, a missionary, to Tobago; but the death both of himself

and his wife, together with the unsettled state of the island at that period, occasioned the suspension of the mission for several years. At length, in 1798, Charles F. W. Shirmer was sent from England to this island; and, on his arrival, he met with a very favourable reception from a number of the planters. Encouraged by their masters, the poor negroes attended in great numbers on his instructions; and, in the course of a few months, he had the pleasure of baptising several of them. Afterwards, however, when several of the chief planters, who supported the mission, died, or were otherwise removed from the island, the negroes, in general, grew more remiss in their attendance on divine worship; and it appeared that many of them would be satisfied if they could only obtain baptism, and the name of Christians. To this, however, there were happily some exceptions.

"In 1801, the brethren, as well as the other white inhabitants of Tobago, were much alarmed by a conspiracy amongst the negroes on many of the plantations to murder all the white people on the island, and also every mullatto and free negro who would not join their party. The firing of the gun on Christmas eve was fixed on as the signal for the general massacre; but providentially the plot was discovered, and the execution of it prevented by the vigilant exertions of the government. It is worthy of notice, that none of the negroes under the care of the brethren were concerned in this conspiracy. This mission, we suppose, has

since been relinquished, as no notice has been taken of it for a number of years; and it does not appear in the list of the brethren's settlements.

"The mission of this island was undertaken in both instances at the particular desire of Mr Hamilton, one of the planters. It is an object, indeed, which appears to have lain near his heart. In a letter, he expresses himself in the following manner:—"It is but just I should do something for these poor people, who do so much for me; and that, while they are labouring hard to procure me the comforts of this life, I should endeavour to procure for them the means of obtaining that which will render them happy both here and hereafter, and which is far above all earthly possessions." Happy would it be, were such the sentiments of West India planters in general.

"In 1738, two of the brethren, John Guettner and Lewis Christopher Dehne, were sent as missionaries to Rio De Berbice, a Dutch settlement, near Surinam, in South America. After working for some time in the company's plantation, they took a piece of land on the borders of the colony, and cultivated it on their own account, in the hope of at length finding an opportunity to make known the gospel among the pagan inhabitants. Here they lived in great poverty, working their plantations with their own hands. Among the Indians who resided in their neighbourhood, and who understood some Dutch, they found no admission for the gospel; and as for those who lived at a distance, they

could not speak their language. In 1741, however, they took a boy under their charge, from whom, in the course of a few years, they learned so much of the Arawack language, that they wrote in it a summary of the principles of Christianity, for the use of the Indians. With this short compendium of religion, one of the brethren ventured to go from time to time among the heathen; sought them out, scattered as they were over a vast wilderness, three hundred miles in extent; and, after saluting them in a friendly manner, read it to them; spoke upon it as well as he was able, and watered all his labours with his prayers and tears. In these excursions they frequently encountered no small difficulties and hardships. They were obliged to carry their provisions on their backs; to hang their hammocks on the trees in the wilderness, and sleep in this singular situation; to wade through the streams and rivers; and often to travel immense distances without meeting with a house or a human being. The success, however, which crowned their labours, was a rich reward for all their toils. Pleased with the gentleness and affability of the brethren's manners, the Indians wished to be further acquainted with them; and, with this view, they came to visit them in their own habitation at Pilgerhut. Here the youth, from whom the missionaries had learned the language, declared the gospel to them in so striking a manner, and with so powerful an effect, that they not only spread the word abroad among their countrymen, but some of them at

length erected huts for themselves in the neighbourhood. In the spring of 1748, several of their very aged people were baptized, as the first fruits of their mission; and, in the course of a few months, no less than forty were admitted to the same privilege.

The settlement of the Indians with the brethren, however, was attended with considerable difficulty. They were not only obliged to leave their houses and their friends, but, on their arrival, they had to clear the ground of wood, to plant it with cassabi, a root on which they chiefly depend for subsistance; and to make a hard shift, during the first year, until it came to maturity. Besides these difficulties, some malicious persons endeavoured to seduce the Indians; and, when they failed in this attempt, they laboured to infuse suspicions into their minds, as if the missionaries, under the pretence of instructing them, designed only to make them slaves. They, at the same time, complained to the governor of the concourse of Indians to the brethren, as likely to terminate in a rebellion; and when this trick also failed of its effect, a clergyman in the colony was so base as to become their tool, in transmitting to Holland various accusations against the missionaries, with the view of putting a period to their benevolent labours.

Unhappily, the machinations of their enemies at last prevailed, and gave rise to measures which threatened the total subversion of the mission. The brethren were required by government to take an oath, and to carry

arms, though they had hitherto been exempted from all such demands. They were ordered not to draw the Indians to them, nor to with-hold them from the service of the company; though, in fact, the poor creatures came for the most part of their own accord from a distant part of the country; and they were further enjoined to urge the baptized to assist in the fisheries and the other labours of the colony. On this subject the brethren were several times summoned before the council; and, though their answers were very satisfactory, and the purity of their designs was evinced in the clearest manner, yet they were told, that unless they complied with these, and some other requisitions, they must quit the country. And, in fact, Christopher Dehne, on returning, two years aftewards, from a visit to Europe, was sent back in the same vessel by which he came. Besides these disagreeable occurrences, the mission met with many other impediments. Owing to the failure of the crops, the Dutch soldiers came to buy cassabi from the Christian Indians; and, though they were in want themselves, the villians not only took their roots from them by force, but wantonly destroyed such as were still unripe in the ground. These outrages the Indians bore at first with patience; but being several times repeated in the course of three years, they at last betook themselves to places in the wilderness, where they might plant their cassabi without being exposed to the same base ungenerous treatment.

"But though these circumstances were in many re-

spects highly prejudicial to the interests of the mission, they were not altogether without their use. Though the brethren were prohibited from travelling through the country, yet the dispersion of the Christian Indians spread the knowledge of the gospel farther than it had ever been preached by them. The Indians of a Spanish province on the river Orinoco sent a deputation to Pilgerhut, to make inquiry concerning the missionaries. The savages on the Corentyne sent an embassy on a similar errand; and many others came from various parts of the country, some of whom were considered as barbarians by the Arawaks themselves; yet of these, it is hoped, some were gained as trophies to the Redeemer.

"After several years, during which the mission was subjected to numerous and heavy trials, it was at length favoured with external peace and prosperity. As the planters now began to see that the labours of the brethren were beneficial in promoting their own temporal interest, they no longer endeavoured to thwart, but rather to further, the undertaking. But unhappily, while the mission enjoyed outward prosperity, it declined internally. The baptized now amounted to about four hundred, most of whom resided in the little hamlets in the neighbourhood of the brethren, though some also still lived at a distance in the wilderness, where they suffered no small injury in their spiritual interests. Besides, Theophilus Schumann, who had baptized the most of them, having been obliged to return to Europe in

1757, the congregation, during his absence, was not duly supplied; for, though there were still several brethren in the country, yet, as none of them were ordained, they could not administer baptism or the Lord's Supper; a circumstance which greatly discouraged the young converts. At the same time, a contagious disorder broke out in the country, and committed terrible ravages both among the Europeans and Indians; and this calamity was still further aggravated by a scarcity of provisions in the colony, which at length rose to the height of famine, and drove many of the baptized from their hamlets, in search of more fruitful lands. As soon as these circumstances were known in Europe, measures were taken to send them an ordained missionary from Bethlehem in North America; but, when he had sailed, the ship sprung a leak, and was obliged to return to port; nor could he afterwards find another opportunity of prosecuting his voyage. It was therefore judged necessary to send a written ordination to two of the brethren who were still in the country, empowering them to administer the ordinances of baptism and of the Lord's Supper among such of the Indians as still remained. In this condition Schumann found the colony, on his return in 1760. Most of the Indians were either sick, or had died, or were scattered abroad. Nearly one half of the colonies had been cut off by the contagious disorder; and, amongst others, the new governor, who had protected and supported the missionaries in their labours. It was not long, indeed, before Schumann

himself followed him to the grave. This complication of disastrous circumstances discouraged the surviving brethren, and produced some want of harmony among them, with regard to the method of carrying on the work of the mission. Still, however, they endeavoured to collect again their scattered flock of Indians.

" At length, however, the mission to Berbice, the prospects of which were once so bright and fair, was unexpectedly brought to a period. In 1763, the negroes in the colony rose in rebellion against their masters, murdered a great many of the white people, and laid waste almost the whole country. As a party of them were on their way to Pilgerhut, the missionaries, and such of the Indians as were still with them, were obliged to betake themselves to flight. They had not, indeed, proceeded far, when some of them, who returned to reconnoitre the movements of the rebels, discovered that they had already entered the settlement, and set it on fire. The brethren remained for some weeks in the neighbouring woods, suffering innumerable privations and hardships, and in constant danger of their life from parties of incendiaries and murderers, who were strolling through the country. Happily, however, they escaped them almost miraculously, by taking a road through woods and swamps, unknown to the Indians themselves; and at length, after a perilous journey of some weeks, they arrived at the first plantations in Demerara, to which they might have travelled in two days by usual tracts. Most of the missionaries afterwards proceeded

to Pennsylvania or to Europe. Two, who remained, were advised by the brethren in Europe to go with the Indians to Surinam; but, before they received notice of this, both of them died. Such was the rise, the progress, and the termination of the mission on the Rio de Berbice.

"In 1735, three of the brethren were sent to Surinam, with the view of establishing a settlement in that country, and of introducing the gospel among the pagan inhabitants. Having purchased a plantation in the neighbourhood of Paramaribo, the principal town in the colony, they laboured among the negroes and Indians, and even among the Jews, in that quarter, not without some appearance of success. But, in consequence of certain dissentions among themselves, together with some other reasons, they, in 1745, determined to leave the colony. Some of them, accordingly, withdrew to Pensylvania, and some to the neighbouring mission on the Rio de Berbice.

"In 1754, the brethren were again invited from the Rio de Berbice to Surinam; and not only had the same privileges granted them as before, but a more extensive door was opened to them for labouring among the heathen. Lewis Christopher Dehne, one of the first who was engaged in the mission to Berbice, now came to Surinam, accompanied by Mark Ralphs, another of the brethren. Upon their arrival, they wrought in private at their trades, in the hope of at length finding an opportunity of settling among the

Indians. Happily, in these expectations they were not disappointed. Having entered into an agreement with the government that some brethren should fix their residence at Paramaribo, for the purpose of working at their trades, and supplying the wants of the colony, they had a spot of land assigned them, both on the river Corentyne and the river Saramecca, for the establishment of a mission among the Arawack Indians, and particularly with the view of collecting such of the baptized as had retreated from Berbice, in consequence of the various misfortunes they suffered in that colony.

"About 1757, Lewis Christopher Dehne, though he was now considerably advanced in life, and was almost always sickly, took up his residence on the river Corentyne. When he first went thither, he was accompanied by some of the Indians, who even assisted him in building a hut; but afterwards they all left him except one, with whom he led a very solitary life. After some time, however, his companion was taken ill of some disorder; and the Indian doctors who passed by told him he would never recover if he continued to live with the white man, who was under the power of the devil, and would likewise soon turn sick. Influenced by these representations, the poor creature, as soon as he was a little better, forsook his teacher, and retired among his own countrymen. But though the missionary was thus left alone without either friend or companion, yet, even in this wild solitude, he was contented and

happy. "Our Saviour (he says) was always with me, "and comforted me with his gracious presence;—so "that I can truly say I spent my time in happiness and "peace."

"Some of the Indians at first entertained strong suspicions of his views, and even formed the barbarous design of putting him to death. The soldiers at the fort informed him of his danger, and invited him to come nearer them; but though he thanked them for their kindness, he determined to stand by his post, if he might be honoured to win one soul to the Redeemer. One day, however, as he sat at dinner, about fifty of the Indians landed from their candes, and surrounded his hut, with the view of carrying their threats into execution. Some of them were armed with swords, and some with tomahawks. This was truly an alarming sight. Nevertheless, he went out to them, and bade them welcome. They then asked him, through the medium of an interpreter, who gave him liberty to build on their land? To this he replied, The Governor. They next inquired, What design he had in coming thither? To which he answered, "I have brethren on the other side of the great ocean, who having heard that many of the Indians on this great river were ignorant of God, have, from the great affection they felt towards you, sent me to tell you the love of God, and what he has done to save you." The chief then said, "Have you never heard that the Indians intend to kill "you?" "Yes (answered Dehne); but I cannot be-

"lieve it. You have among you some who have lived "with me; and they can tell you I am the friend of the "Indians." To this the chief replied, "Yes, I have "heard so: they say you are another sort of Christian "than the white people in general." The missionary then said, "I am your friend; how is it you come to "kill me?" "We have done wrong," answered the chief. Every countenance now altered, and the Indians quickly dispersed. The chief, however, remained behind, and behaved in a very friendly manner; and, as Dehne was then in want of provisions, he gave him a supply of cassabi, fish, &c. and, on taking his leave, promised he would often come and see him. Thus, our missionary, by his magnanimous yet temperate conduct, warded off the blow that threatened his life, and even converted his enemies into friends.

"During his stay in this solitary situation, Dehne was often in want of the common necessaries of life. Often he rose in the morning, ignorant whether he should taste a morsel the whole day; yet Providence so ordered it, that repeatedly, when he could no longer bear the gnawings of hunger, some Indians arrived, who divided with him their handfuls of cassabi. Often, too, when, in clearing the ground, he was overcome with fatigue, the Indians who passed by were so kind as to afford him assistance. He laboured, however, so hard, that he at length fell sick; and though one of the brethren in Berbice set out immediately to visit him, yet for a considerable time he could get none of

the Indians to carry him in their boats; for they were all affraid of going near a sick person, and particularly the poor missionary, as it was generally reported that the devil lived with him. They even did all they could to dissuade his brother from visiting so dangerous a person. At length, however, he prevailed, and arrived to the assistance of his sick friend.

"Besides suffering these various trials, our missionary was often in no small danger of the wild beasts of the forest, serpents, and other venemous creatures. A tiger for a long time kept watch near his hut, seeking an opportunity, no doubt, to seize the poor solitary inhabitant. Every night it roared most dreadfully; and though he generally kindled a large fire in the neighbourhood before he went to bed, yet, as it often went out by the morning, it would have proved a miserable defence, had not the Lord preserved him.

"The following circumstance is still more remarkable, and illustrates in a singular manner the care of God over his servants. Being one evening attacked with a paroxysm of fever, he resolved to go into his hut, and lie down in his hammock. Just, however, as he entered the door, he beheld a serpent descending from the roof upon him. In the scuffle which ensued, the creature stung or bit him in two or three different places, and, pursuing him closely, turned itself several times about his head and neck as tightly as possible. Expecting now to be stung or strangled to death, and being afraid lest his brethren should inspect the In-

dians had murdered him, he, with singular presence of mind, wrote with chalk on the table, "a serpent has killed me." Suddenly, however, that promise of the Redeemer darted into his mind, "They shall take up serpents, and shall not be hurt." Encouraged by this declaration, he seized the creature with great force, tore it loose from his body, and flung it out of the hut. He then lay down in his hammock in tranquillity and peace.

"After our missionary had lived in this solitary situation for about two years, he was joined by some others of the brethren.

"The place now began to assume the appearance of a regular settlement. A meeting-house was erected for public worship, and a dwelling-house for the accommodation of the missionaries. Here they were often visited by the Indians, both acquaintances and strangers, and some of the Christian converts from Berbice took up their residence with them.

"Meanwhile, some others of the brethren had formed a settlement on the river Sarameca, and called the place Sharon. Here they had likewise erected a meeting-house, a dwelling-house, and some out-houses, laid out a plantation, and even begun to raise cattle. Many of the Indians collected to this place, among whom were a considerable number of those who had left Berbice. But its prosperity was of short duration. In 1761, a number of the free negroes attacked the settlement, murdered several of the inhabitants, and totally

destroyed their habitations. "As I was walking," says Lewis Christopher Dehne, who was now at Sharon, "conversing with one of my brethren, not far from our house, we were suddenly alarmed by the report of fire-arms. We, therefore, resolved to return home, and see what was the matter; but we had not proceeded far, when we met brother Kamm running to us without hat or shoes, and pale as death. He told us the free negroes had attacked our settlement; that one of our brethren was wounded, and the house on fire; and that, if we returned, we should inevitably be murdered. We ventured, however, to go nearer; but were soon met by our Indians, one of whom had an arrow sticking in his back, and the blood was gushing from the wound. Having begged us to save our lives by flight, we followed them into the wood. But, in the midst of our terror and confusion, we missed the way; and, after rambling about till the evening, found ourselves in the same spot from whence we had set out. The negroes having in the meanwhile taken their departure, our Indians conducted us to the place where brother Odenwald lay wounded, and still bleeding. Beholding him in this situation, I took a piece of my shirt, and dressed his wound; and having saved one hammock, we put him into it, while we ourselves lay down to sleep on the wet ground, for it had rained all day, and we durst not kindle a fire, lest the enemy should discover our retreat. On the return of one of the brethren to the settlement next morning, he found our house burnt to

ashes, all our little property destroyed, and three of our Indians lying dead on the ground; besides whom, eleven others were carried away prisoners."

"Soon after this terrible disaster, three new missionaries arrived in Surinam; but, on coming to Sharon, they found the two brethren who remained at that place sick. It appears they had been confined to bed, one after another, for near a whole year, without medical aid, and without any other food than cassabi and water. As their distress had been so great, their joy was so much the greater on the arrival of these new assistants. But how dark and mysterious are the ways of Providence! Two of the new missionaries were carried off by death within eight days, and the other followed them soon after to the grave. Deeply as this intelligence affected the brethren in Europe, many of them cheerfully offered to go and supply the ranks of those who had thus so unexpectedly fallen; and, in a very short time, several of them accordingly sailed for Surinam.

"By degrees, many of the Indians returned to the settlement; and though they were frequently alarmed by reports of a new attack from the negroes, and often on this account dispersed again, yet at length they learned to disregard these frightful tales, which were circulated by their enemies merely to distress them. As the missionaries, however, were only four in number, and often sick, it was extremely difficult for them to rebuild their houses and repair their plantations. Besides, on a voyage of the Indians to Paramaribo, they

lost all their boats at once in the sea, though providentially the whole of those on board were saved.

"In the course of a few years, however, the mission in this quarter began to recover from these various disasters, and to assume a more promising aspect. Not only did the Indians who had originally belonged to it return, but many of those who had been baptized in Berbice found their way to it, and even persuaded some of their friends to accompany them. The missionaries now took fresh courage, reorganized the congregation, and appointed several of the converts as helpers among their countrymen, particularly among such as lived at a distance.

"As the district round the Corentyne was on the borders of Berbice, the Indians in that quarter did not think themselves safe from the negro rebels, who, in 1763, rose in arms against their masters; and, therefore, they fled farther into the country. The brethren, for the same reason, retired to Paramaribo; but, as the rebellion was soon suppressed, they returned to their settlement at Ephraim the following year. As their house, however, was in a low situation, and exposed to inundations, they removed to a height not far from the Mepenna, on which most of the Indians resided who had fled from Berbice. Some of those indeed had now grown wild; yet in many of them the influence of the gospel was still apparent. Besides labouring among them, the brethren did not cease travelling among the savages; and the knowledge of the

gospel was spread still farther through the country, by means of their Indian visitors, as well as by the baptized. Encouraged by these circumstances, the brethren called their new settlement, which was situated on the left bank of the Corentyne, by the auspicious name of Hope.

"Of the history of this mission, for a number of years, we possess little or no information. It does not, however, appear to have been attended with much success; for, in 1769, the number of the baptized only amounted to eighty-three; and even many of these were not the most regular in their conduct. Most of the deviations, indeed, with which the converts were chargeable, might be traced to their intercourse with their pagan countrymen, who spared no pains to seduce them to attend their parties of diversion; an object in which they were too often successful. With the view of checking this evil, the brethren, ever since the commencement of the mission, had endeavoured to prevail on such, at least, as lived near Hope, to settle on their premises; and as the baptized had often objected that there was no ground on their plantation fit for the raising of cassabi, they now made application to a chief for permission to them to plant it in his neighbourhood. This request he immediately granted; and, pointing out a considerable tract of forest land, said, "This ground "God has given to me, as he gave that at Hope to "thee. Thus I am the rightful proprietor of it. Now, "as I have not created it, and thou canst use it, I de-

"liver it over to thee freely. Thy people may come "and clear it. The sooner the better." He then addressed the Indians in a very friendly manner, and expressed his satisfaction at their coming to plant in his neighbourhood; assuring them, at the same time, that no devil or evil spirit haunted the tract of land he had given them.

"In consequence of this new arrangement, the Indians began to build cottages in the neighbourhood of Hope, to leave off their roving habits, and to cultivate the arts of social life. Besides making great improvements in the cultivation of the land, they began, by the permission of government, to prepare all kinds of timber for building, and to convey it to the colony of Berbice, from whence they received considerable orders. They also made a kind of hats from the leaves of a certain species of palm, which they sold to the Pagan Indians; and negroes, as well as white people, found them very useful, as they were much lighter, cooler, and stronger, than the common hats. "We are delighted," say the missionaries, "to see all our people usefully employed. Thus, one day, fifteen brethren were preparing materials for building; almost all the sisters were planting; five were repairing the roofs; four were planting Indian corn in our garden; three girls were making hammocks of bass; and two brethren were copying some texts and hymns in the Arawack language. In visiting the carpenters, we found them conversing on our Saviour's having, while on

earth, wrought at their trade;—a circumstance that gave us much pleasure."

"In August 1795, two of the missionaries, with four of the Indians, experienced a remarkable deliverance at sea, when in the most imminent danger of being drowned. In conveying the timber and other articles to Berbice, they often run great hazard in their small canoes. And, therefore, they at length purchased a large boat for this purpose. But, in the very first voyage made in her to the colony, she all of a sudden became leaky, after they had proceeded a considerable way, and filled with water so rapidly, that, before they could run her ashore, she sunk to the bottom. At first they clung to a cask fastened to the boat, and then to the mast, part of which was above the surface of the water. In this perilous situation, they remained for no less than eight hours; but at last, when it was after midnight, they contrived to get to shore, two and two at a time, in a small canoe they had providentially taken with them. In the morning, the missionaries and a little boy (for more the canoe would not hold) set out to return to Hope; and after rowing for about four and twenty hours in their wet clothes, without any covering for their heads, and even without food, they reached that place, to the great astonishment of their brethren. It happened very providentially that all their efforts to get out to sea had been frustrated by contrary winds, which kept them near the shore. For, as the boat sunk within less than five minutes after the leak was dis-

covered, they must inevitably have perished, had the accident happened at a greater distance from land.

"The number of Indians under the brethren's care was in the meanwhile considerably increased. The inhabitants of the settlement at Hope had how increased to about three hundred; besides whom, there were many others who still lived scattered in the woods. In the year 1800, the baptized alone amounted to one hundred and sixty-nine, and of these eighty-four were communicants. Among the many advantages attending the introduction of the gospel and the arts of social life among them, it was none of the least that, in sickness, they were much better taken care of than their heathen neighbours. It is a singular fact that, in epidemical diseases, eight of the pagans died for one Christian.

"In August 1806, the whole settlement, including the church, the missionaries' dwellings, and the houses of the Indians, were burnt to the ground. The fire, once kindled, ran along the roofs, which were thatched with leaves, with such prodigious fury, that there was no probability of checking its progress. By this means, not only their houses, but all their garden tools, the stores of the Indians, the tackling and rigging of their boat, and various other useful implements, were totally destroyed. The fire began about two o'clock in the afternoon, while the missionaries were taking some refreshment; and there was too much reason to suspect that it was kindled by incendiaries, as several attempts

of the same kind had been made some days before, which, being discovered, were frustrated in time.

"While the external circumstances of the settlement were so disastrous, its internal state was not more flourishing. Most, if not all, the Indians belonging to the congregation, whose practice corresponded with their profession, had within a short time been seized with an epidemical disease, and died rejoicing in the Redeemer. Such as still survived, so far from being truly religious, were disorderly, dissolute, and refractory, and even manifested a spirit of enmity to the gospel. Discouraged by these circumstances, the brethren, about two years after the burning of the settlement, abandoned the place, and relinquished the mission.

"This event having occasioned deep regret among the brethren's congregations in Europe, the missionaries at Paramaribo were commissioned to avail themselves of the first opportunity of collecting the scattered remains of the Arawack flock, and of renewing the mission among them. Several of the Indians themselves, who occasionally visited that town, expressed a wish that the brethren would return among them; and declared that many of them who, by their dissolute refractory behaviour, had contributed to the breaking up of the congregation, now repented of their conduct, and valued the means of religious instruction more highly than ever. Influenced by these considerations, one of the brethren from Paramaribo proceeded, in September

1810, to that quarter of the country; and spared no pains in visiting the Indians, dispersed as they were through the woods and the wilderness. In the course of this excursion, he learned that of the late inhabitants of Hope there were still about two hundred living. He himself spoke with nearly eighty of the baptized, many of whom bewailed the loss of their teachers, and expressed an earnest desire that they would return and dwell among them.

"In June 1812, William Christian Gentle and John Hafa, two new missionaries who had lately arrived in Surinam, proceeded to the river Corentyne, to renew the mission among the Arawack Indians in that quarter of the country. On their arrival, they found a house ready for them, built by one of the baptized, in expectation of the return of their teachers. It was situated about three English miles from the old settlement, Hope; and, on a hill about a mile distant, lived about thirty of the baptized Indians. Such are the latest accounts we have received of the mission on the river Corentyne."

As a proof of the great expence of human life which the missions occasion, as well as the disinterested zeal which reigns among the united brethren, the following circumstances are not unworthy of notice.

"In 1800, three missionaries, sent to Surinam, died soon after their arrival in that country. To supply their places, three others, one of them married, sailed for that colony, and landed in safety, February 1801.

One of the single brethren, however, died within nine days after their arrival, and the wife of the married brother in about three months. Yet brethren and sisters were soon found ready to go and fill the ranks of those who had thus so prematurely fallen. So early as the month of December that same year, a company of five persons sailed from London for Surinam."

These extracts from Dr Brown's publication on Missions are exceedingly interesting, and cannot fail to impress those who cherish exalted ideas of religion with opinions highly favourable of the Moravian brethren. Their disinterested, courageous, and pious zeal, has not been surpassed by the ministers of religion; and of their body, the irreligious outlaw cannot allege that they have been inspired by motives less worthy than an earnest desire to extend the benefits of that religion, on which their present enjoyments rest, and to enlighten those who are yet uninformed of its comforts.

When our colonists attempt to assert that such men are dangerous, it must be denied by every honest mind. Even those who are indisposed to religious habits, must possess a diabolical ingenuity of mind, to attempt to persuade, that such men, exemplary in every respect, considerate and prudent in their instructions to negroes, of sober and gentle habits, would devote themselves to that course which might have a tendency to disaffect negroes towards their masters. It is impossible; and

the Moravian brethren appear to me to be deserving of encouragement from every proprietor of the West India islands. Their instructions will have a tendency to strengthen the ties between masters and negroes; and, if encouraged, I am persuaded would materially contribute to the security of our colonies.

The Methodists have, of late years, been extremely industrious in propagating their doctrines in the West Indies. There is reason to fear that their zeal has not been governed by that moderation so strikingly the character of the Moravian brethren. They have, therefore, been opposed in several of the islands. But I shall again take the liberty to select any information from the publication to which I have before alluded, Dr Brown on Missions.

"In Autumn 1786, the Reverend Dr Coke, accompanied by three other Methodist preachers, destined for Nova Scotia, sailed from England for that country; but, after being ten weeks at sea, the violence of the gales, a leak in the ship, and apprehension of the want of water, forced the captain to change his course, and bear off for the West Indies. Having landed on the island of Antigua, the Doctor and his companions resolved that, instead of proceeding to the original place of their destination, they would attempt to begin a mission on this and some other of the neighbouring islands.

"In the year 1760, Nathaniel Gilbert, Esquire, Speaker of the House of Assembly in Antigua, began

to make some attempts to promote the interests of religion on that island. Having, in a late visit to England, been himself impressed by the gospel, he endeavoured, on his return to Antigua, to communicate to others the light of divine truth. His attempts were at first confined to a few persons whom he collected together in his own house on the Lord's Day; but afterwards he proceeded to preach in public, not only to the white people, but to the negro slaves. Conduct so singular and unexampled could not fail to excite general notice, and to draw upon him the insults and slanders of the enemies of religion, notwithstanding the high station which he occupied in the island. He persevered, however, in his labours, amidst the numerous indignities which were thrown upon him; and he had at length the pleasure of uniting about two hundred of his hearers into a Christian society, and continued to watch over them with all the affection and solicitude of a father. But, in the midst of these useful and disinterested labours, he was called away from this terrestrial scene to enter the eternal state; and his disconsolate flock were left as sheep without a shepherd, having no one to guide them in the paths of religion,—to reprove their wanderings,—to comfort them in their afflictions,—or to cherish the infant work of grace in their hearts.

"From the death of Mr Gilbert, nearly twenty years elapsed before one was found to supply his place. At length, however, Mr John Baxten, a member of the Methodist connexion in this country, embarked from

Chatham for Antigua, to work as a shipwright in the service of government; and having, on his arrival, found religion at a very low ebb on the island, he embraced the opportunity of his leisure hours for preaching the gospel to such as would hear him. Such of Mr Gilbert's hearers as had survived the ravages of death, and remained faithful amidst abounding iniquity, soon flocked to him. In the space of five years, he collected together in a society about a thousand members; but, unhappily, through a laxity of discipline, many were received into it whose conduct ill corresponded with their profession.

"On Dr Coke's arrival, in December 1786, Mr Baxter agreed to relinquish a lucrative situation which he held on the island, and to devote himself entirely to the work of the ministry, along with Mr Warrener, one of the preachers who was originally destined for Nova Scotia. It was now, however, found necessary to discard many of the members, as unworthy of the profession which they made; a circumstance which considerably reduced the number of the society. But the advantages which resulted from it amply counterbalanced this inconvenience. It rescued the gospel from disgrace, induced those who remained to walk with greater circumspection, and ultimately proved beneficial to the interests of religion.

"Since that period, the Methodist society in Antigua has been subject to considerable variations; but, amidst these changes, it has in general been more or less on

the increase; so that, although the branches have occasionally been blasted, the tree itself has been taking deeper root.

"As soon as Dr Coke had settled the mission in Antigua, he sailed for Dominica, with the view of promoting the interests of religion in that island. In 1788, a missionary was sent thither; and, in a short time, he collected about a hundred and fifty of the negroes into a society; a circumstance which so encouraged and animated him in his work, that he laboured beyond his strength, and soon fell a victim to his excessive exertions. After his death, a considerable time elapsed before his place could be supplied; and, in the meanwhile, most of those of whom he had conceived good hopes relapsed into their former practices. Some, however, remained stedfast to their Christian profession; and, on the arrival of a new missionary, a society, consisting of several hundred members, was in a short time raised at Prince Rupert's Bay. But the low marshy situation of this place has proved highly injurious to the health of the missionaries. Several of them have fallen sacrifices to the diseases which they caught in prosecuting their labours; while others, who came to settle on the island, have been so debilitated from sickness, that they have been compelled to remove to some more salubrious climate for the recovery of their health. Dominica, indeed, on the whole, has been the most unhealthy island on which the Methodists have attempted to establish a mission. Hence, it has often been left without

a missionary; a circumstance which could not fail materially to retard their progress. The work, however, is at present rather in a prosperous state, especially considering that the greater part of the people were strongly attached to the Church of Rome, and laboured under violent prejudices against Protestant faith. Many of them, however, have now thrown off these shackles, and assumed fortitude enough to laugh at the fooleries of others, and to despise the anathemas of Romish priests. Even their attachment to France is now a less formidable impediment than it was at first. In no island, however, has the number of Methodist members varied so much as in Dominica.

"In 1787, the Methodists visited the island of St Vincent's, with the view of establishing a mission upon it; and, on their arrival, they were treated with many flattering marks of respect by the inhabitants. They attempted soon after to begin a school among the native Caribs; and the legislature of the island gave an estate for the support of the institution; but the Catholic priests of Martinico infused suspicions into the minds of the poor people that the missionaries were spies employed by the King of England; and, by this means, raised their jealousy to such a pitch, that it was found necessary to withdraw from among them. Among the negroes, however, the Methodists were more successful; and in a short time collected such numbers of them into their societies, as amply recompensed them for the failure of their labours among the Caribs.

"In 1793, the legislative assembly of St Vincent's,

which had at first patronised the Methodist missionaries, passed a very rigorous act against them, prohibiting them from preaching to the negroes under the severest penalties. For the first transgression, it was enacted, that the offender should be punished by a fine of eighteen pounds; for the second, by such corporal punishment as the court should think proper to inflict, and likewise banishment; and if the person should return from banishment, by death. In consequence of this infamous act, Mr Lamb, the missionary, was thrown into prison for preaching the gospel, and refusing to pay the fine. The magistrate, indeed, who committed him, offered to lay down the greater part of the fine; and one of the merchants wished to pay the whole; but he was determined to do nothing which might be construed as a voluntary submission to a law so execrable in itself, and so contrary to the spirit of the British constitution. Happily it was in force only a short time; for as all the acts of the colonial assemblies must be transmitted to his Majesty for his royal sanction, the King was graciously pleased to disallow it, as contrary to the principles of toleration, of which he has always professed himself the decided friend.

Since that period, no material impediment has been thrown in the way of the Methodist missionaries in the island of St Vincent's. Many of those who once were their persecutors are now become their friends, and shew them a degree of kindness and hospitality scarcely equalled in any other island. The prejudices of others,

however, are rather softened than subdued; and would probably burst forth with renewed violence, had they any prospect of being supported by the civil power.

"The members of the Methodist society in St Vincent's are pretty numerous; but as they are scattered over the various plantations in the island, they have no opportunity of attending divine worship, except on the Lord's Day; and, even then, many of them have it not in their power, in consequence of their great distance from town.

"In 1787, Dr Coke, accompanied by Mr Hammel, one of the Methodist preachers, visited St Christopher's, with the view of establishing a mission in the island; and, on explaining their design, they were received by the inhabitants with the most flattering tokens of approbation. Mr Hammel remained on the island. A small society was almost immediately formed; and, since that period, multitudes, who had lived without God, without Christ, and without hope in the world, have been impressed with concern for their souls, and received as members by the missionaries. Many allowances, however, must be made for slaves, whose situation in life depresses the growth of their mental powers, debases their understandings, and corrupts their heart.

"The negroes employed on the plantations have, in general, extremely scanty and confused ideas on almost every subject; and feel the utmost difficulty in expressing themselves, with precision and perspicuity,

concerning even the most ordinary circumstances. The testimony, therefore, which they bear for religion, must be sought for in the conduct of their life, rather than in the language of their lips. In the towns, however, particularly in Basseterre, the negroes are more distinguished for the clearness of their ideas and the accuracy of their language. Among them, indeed, there have been several, who, by leading classes, and exhorting their countrymen, have rendered the mission most essential service.

"From the time when the Methodists first settled in this island, they have experienced almost an uninterrupted flow of external prosperity. Disturbances, indeed, from the lawless mob, have occasionally occurred; but, as they were never supported by the government of the island, they existed only for a moment, and then expired.

"In 1787, Dr Coke visited St Eustatius, which was then in the hands of the Dutch, in the course of his voyage through the West Indies. The government of the island, however, would not suffer him to preach; but yet he employed his time, from morning to night, for about eighteen days, in instructing small companies of the negroes, from eight to twelve at a time, in the house of a free black with whom he lodged. Having returned again the following year, he would have been thrown into prison, had it not been for a letter which had been obtained from Lord Dover to the government of Holland, intelligence of which had reached the island.

"Dr Coke having afterwards visited Saba, the governor and council of that island requested him to settle a minister among them. In compliance with their request, he appointed Mr Brazier to remain among them; but the governor of St Eustatius, who possessed the supreme authority in all the Dutch possessions in that part of the West Indies, compelled the governor of Saba, though with much reluctance, to part with their preacher.

"In the island of St Eustatius itself, the governor cruelly persecuted a certain slave, who endeavoured to instruct his countrymen in the things which belonged to their everlasting peace; and at length the poor man was sold off the island to the captain of a Spanish ship. He likewise persecuted such as attended the meetings for divine worship. He pursued them, by his black soldiers, from corner to corner, to their own little huts, and even to the most secret recesses of the mountains, in order to put an end to their meetings for prayer; and at length, by torture, and every other method he could devise, he completely succeeded in suppressing them.

"For about twenty years, the Methodists continued to make every effort in their power to establish a mission on this island; but, until of late, all their exertions were in vain. St Eustatius having at length fallen into the hands of the British, two of the missionaries waited soon after on the English governor, and obtained liberty from him to attempt the establishment of a mission

upon it. They now proceeded to preach the gospel, and to collect together the remains of their former little flock, which had long been scattered. They soon united a number of the negroes into a society; and, in 1811, their numbers amounted to two hundred and forty-six. Besides preaching to the adults, the missionary had upwards of a hundred children under his care, who made considerable progress in learning.

"In 1788, Dr. Coke visited the island of Nevis, with a view of introducing the gospel among the negro slaves; and, on his departure, he left a missionary to labour among them. Many of the most opulent planters at first opposed the design, from an apprehension that it would introduce a spirit of insubordination among the negroes. Hence, for a considerable time, they would not permit the Methodists to have access to the slaves on their estates; and when some at length ventured to invite them, they preserved the utmost caution in their manner of proceeding; and, in some instances, the missionaries, after they had preached a few times, were discarded, without being informed of any reason for such singular treatment. They were rarely, however, without employment. When dismissed from one plantation, they were solicited to visit others; and, after a short season, were treated as they had been before.

"But these clouds, which but for a time darkened the horizon, began at length to dispel. By degrees, the congregation became more numerous,—more re-

spectable,—and more attentive. Many, who hitherto had treated the gospel with contempt, began to view it with veneration; and several of them began to feel the influence of it on their hearts and life. A respectable society was formed at Charlestown, the capital of the island; and the success which attended their labours in that town induced many of the planters to admit the missionaries to their estates in the country.

"Though Nevis is but a small island, being only about twenty-one miles in circumference, the Methodists have here two chapels, one in the town, and another in the country, both of which are attended by respectable and attentive congregations. Besides preaching in these places, the ministers visit such of the plantations as they can conveniently attend; but the invitations which they have of this kind are more numerous than they can comply with. Throughout the West Indies, in general, the Sabbath is the common market day; but, in Nevis, many of the white people now shut up their stores and shops, and attend on divine worship; whilst the negroes, who used to spend that sacred day in dancing, and drinking, and fighting, now come in crowds to the house of God, to hear his word, and sing his praise. The number of members in the Methodist societies on this island has varied considerably at different periods.

"In 1788, Dr Coke, in his second voyage to the West Indies, visited Tortola; and was much delighted with the favourable disposition which the negroes on this

island manifested towards the gospel. This, however, was probably only one of those fallacious appearances, by which persons engaged in the propagation of religion, and the Methodists in particular, have often been deceived, for at first the progress of the mission was slow. A society, however, was at length formed on the island, a chapel erected, and the number of hearers augmented. Afterwards, indeed, the gospel spread among the inhabitants of several of the islets which are scattered up and down in its vicinity, and, like solitary rocks, lift their heads above the vaves. To many of these the missionaries have paid frequent visits in open boats, to the prejudice of their health, and often at the risk of their lives, in order to preach the glad tidings of salvation to the few forgotten families who inhabit them. In the Virgin Islands, persons of almost every description are friendly to the interests of religion; and even those solitary individuals who are secretly inimical to its progress, are ashamed to avow their hostility.

"As a proof of the importance of christianising the negroes, even in a political point of view, it is not unworthy of notice that, soon after the commencement of the war with France, the governor of Tortola received information that the French inhabitants of Guadaloupe meditated a descent on the island. He immediately sent for Mr Turner, the superintendant of the mission in Tortola and the other Virgin Islands, and having informed him of this report, added, that there was no regular force in the colony to defend it against

the enemy; and that they were afraid to arm the negroes, unless he would put himself at the head of them. Mr Turner was sensible that such a step was not properly within the line of the ministerial office; but yet, considering that the island was in imminent danger, that if it were conquered by the French, the religious privileges of the negroes would probably be lost, and that the war on their part was entirely of a defensive nature, he consented to the governor's request, and was accordingly armed with the negroes. About a fortnight after, a French squadron made its appearance in the bay; but being informed, it is supposed by some emissaries, of the armed force on the island, they abandoned their design, and retired. In Tortola, religion is not only respected by all descriptions of people, but is publicly countenanced by all the principal inhabitants on this island. In 1809, it was stated, that even the chief magistrates had seats in the Methodist chapels, and regularly occupied them. One of the members of his Majesty's council was a communicant; and, in common with most of those who filled more exalted stations in the island, treated the missionaries with friendship and respect.

"In 1789, Dr Coke visited Jamaica, with a view of establishing a mission upon it; and, shortly after, a missionary arrived at Kingston, and was received with much kindness by a number of the inhabitants.

"They held their meetings for some time in a private house; but as it was small, and situated near the extremity of the town, they purchased a large building

in a more central situation, the upper part of which they converted into a chapel, capable of containing about twelve hundred people, while the lower part was employed as a lodging for the missionaries. On the opening of the chapel, it was frequented by some of the whites, as well as by the negroes and people of colour; but most of the former soon ceased to attend; and, indeed, a number of the white people became at length so riotous, that it was impossible in the evening to meet for the worship of God in peace, both the preacher and the hearers being often in danger, not only of mischief, but even of their lives. It was in vain to apply to the magistrates for justice, or even for protection. One of the rioters, indeed, was prosecuted; and three of the most respectable white people gave the clearest evidence against him; but the oaths of the Methodists were considered as of no weight; and a midshipman being procured to swear an *alibi*, the fellow was acquitted of the charge. Indeed, the grand jury presented the chapel as a nuisance; and it is not certain by what means this presentment fell to the ground; but it is supposed the honourable bench of judges rejected it.

"Being thus protected, and even encouraged, by their superiors, the mob did not fail to proceed in their system of opposing and molesting the poor Methodists. They not only created disturbances in the time of divine worship, but they frequently beset the chapel, attacked the people with the most abusive language, and re-

peatedly assailed them with large stones. They at last proceeded to break the front gates leading to the chapel; and would probably have still committed some further outrages, had not the arrival of the town guard checked their proceedings. For several weeks, while these disturbances lasted, the members of the society were obliged to keep a strong guard in the city during the night. One morning, when there was no watch, some burnt coals were found on the floor; a circumstance which gave rise to a strong suspicion that an attempt had been made by some incendiaries to set it on fire during the night.

"In consequence of these circumstances, together with the ravages of sickness among the missionaries, and dissensions among the people, the society which had been formed was reduced to a very low ebb. New missionaries indeed arrived to supply the place of those who died; and made attempts to form societies, not only in Kingston, but in various other parts of the island. These efforts, however, were attended with little success. The white people in general slighted the gospel, or were even inveterate against it; and as this was the case with them, the poor negroes were debarred from hearing the word, most of the planters being averse to the religious instruction of their slaves. Such was the low state of the Methodist mission in Jamaica for a number of years. As yet, however, the government of this island had taken up no part against it; but at length the legislature interfered, and

displayed a steadiness, an energy, and a zeal, worthy of a better cause.

"In April 1802, some of the preachers visited Morant Bay, a place about thirty miles from Kingston; and, in the course of a few months, they collected a society in that place of about ninety members. The enemies of religion, however, did not view their progress with indifference or unconcern. Having excited a violent persecution against them, they represented the places in which their meetings were held as nuisances to the quarter-sessions of the parish; but being able to produce nothing against either the preachers or hearers contrary to the laws of God or man, they were compelled, though with reluctance, to drop the prosecution. The meetings, therefore, were continued, as no legal opposition could be made to them; and they met with no interruption for some time, except from the lawless rabble, and a few disorderly persons about the place. But here the matter did not long rest. In December following, the Assembly of Jamaica passed an act, by which it was agreed, that no person, unless he was qualified by the laws of that island and of Great Britain, should preach or perform the services of religion in meetings of negroes or people of colour: That persons offending against this law should be deemed rogues and vagabonds; and, as such, be committed to the workhouse, and kept to hard labour, one month for the first offence, and six months for every repetition of it. Nay, should the case be extraordinary, that the

assizes may inflict any punishment not extending to life: That, if the criminal was a slave, he should, for the first offence, be committed for hard labour to the nearest workhouse for one month; and, for every subsequent offence, be subjected to a public flogging, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes; and it was added, that any person who would knowingly permit such a meeting to be held on his premises, should be liable to a fine not exceeding L.100, and be committed to the common gaol until he should pay it, and give security for his future good behaviour.

"As this act of the legislature of Jamaica professed to prohibit only unqualified persons from preaching to the negroes and people of colour, the Methodist missionaries did not apprehend that they came within the meaning of the law, as they were possessed of regular licenses, which they had obtained in England, and which would have been admitted as valid in any court of justice in Great Britain. Mr Campbell, therefore, continued to preach as usual in Kingston, and met with no kind of interruption; but, when he proceeded to Morant Bay, he was apprehended and taken before the magistrates, who committed him to prison, notwithstanding he produced to them a certificate of his being duly qualified according to the laws of England. When the month of his imprisonment expired, he returned to Kingston, and applied to the magistrates of that town to qualify over again. His request was immediately granted. After preaching about two months in King-

ston, he once more visited Morant Bay; but, as this was a different parish, he did not venture to preach, though he had been qualified under the new law, without asking leave of the magistrates in that quarter. He, therefore, respectfully petitioned them for permission to qualify before them also, if they required it. But they returned him for answer, that they would grant him no license to preach; and, as a punishment, it would seem, for even asking leave to qualify, they revived the old prosecution against him, though it had now been dropped for some time. Not content with his former imprisonment, they endeavoured to apprehend him for the penalty of a hundred pounds, and to make him bring security that he would in effect never preach more; and, unless he had found such security, he was informed he might have been doomed to perpetual imprisonment. Mr Campbell, therefore, by the advice of his friends, made his escape from Jamaica, and returned to England, and leaving his fellow missionary, Mr Fish, to take care of his flock at Kingston, where they still had the liberty of preaching. The serious people at Morant Bay, however, were now in a great measure left destitute of the means of grace. One of them, a very sensible and respectable man, was imprisoned for a month, simply for singing and praying with a few friends. All social worship was now at an end; nor was the mischief confined to this place,—for the new law was employed as an engine for a stop to the preaching of the gospel in various other parts of the island.

Happily, however, when this iniquitous bill was laid before his Majesty for his royal sanction, it was disallowed by him; and information of this being communicated to the House of Assembly, in December 1804, the pious people of Jamaica, after the lapse of two years, were permitted to resume their social meetings for the public worship of God.

"But, though the bill was disallowed by his Majesty, the Assembly of Jamaica endeavoured to elude as far as possible the effect of the royal negative, and to establish a system of persecution equally terrible, at least within the precincts of Kingston. An act of legislature of the island having been procured for erecting a corporation in the capital, an opportunity was taken of introducing into it a clause, by which the corporation of that town were empowered, among a variety of other particulars, to impose on all who should violate their regulations fine and imprisonment to a large extent.

"The design of this clause was probably not perceived by the Board of Trade; and, accordingly, the act obtained the sanction of his Majesty. As the proceedings of the corporation of Kingston were not subjected to the revision of the King, this circumstance was soon improved as a mean of reviving the old system of persecution. In June 1807, the Common Council, under a pretence of zeal for the purity of religion, passed an act, by which any person, not duly authorized by the laws of the island, and of Great Britain, who should presume to preach, or teach, or offer up public

prayers, or sing psalms, in any of the meetings of negroes, or people of colour, within the city or parish, should, if a free person, suffer punishment by a fine, not exceeding L.100, or by imprisonment in the common gaol or workhouse, for any space not exceeding three months; and, if a slave, by imprisonment and hard labour, for a period not exceeding six months, or by whipping not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, or both; that a similar punishment should be inflicted on every person who permitted such an illegal meeting in his house or premises; and that, even in a licenced place of worship, there should be no public worship earlier than six in the morning, or later than sunset in the evening, under a like penalty.

"This cruel law was necessarily confined to the town and parish of Kingston; but, in the month of November following, the Assembly of the island, under the pretence of exciting the proprietors of negroes to instruct them in the principles of religion, passed an act, ordaining that the instruction of slaves should be confined to the doctrines of the Established Church; that no missionaries should be allowed to teach them, or to receive them into their houses or assemblies, under the penalty of L.20 for every slave proved to have been present; and, if the offender refused payment, he should be committed to the country gaol until the fine was discharged.

"The Assembly, knowing that such a measure would be disapproved by his Majesty, resorted to the trick of

engrafting it upon an act to continue the general system of the slave laws, which had been consolidated into a temporary act, that was then about to expire. Their agent was of course instructed to represent, that if the act of continuation was disallowed, Jamaica would be left destitute of slave laws; a circumstance which could not fail to endanger the peace and safety of the island. But the Board of Trade found a way to frustrate this shameful article, by advising his Majesty to disallow both the act in question, and the act of repeal, which had never expressly received the royal sanction, though it had been several years in force. The general slave laws, therefore, were by this means still established, and only the persecuting clauses of this new bill disannulled.

"But, as the legislature of Jamdica, by the stratagem of delaying to transmit the act for the royal sanction, while it had its operation in the island under that of the governor, had, for more than a year, suspended the meetings of the negroes for public worship, his Majesty, to prevent the repetition of such shameful proceedings in that or any other of the islands, issued a general order, in May 1809, to the governors in the West Indies, commanding them, that they should, on no pretence whatever, give their assent to any law relative to religion, until they had first transmitted a draught of the bill to England, and had received his Majesty's approbation to it, unless, in the body of the act, there was a clause inserted, suspending its operation,

until the pleasure of his Majesty should be known respecting it.

"Enraged at this new disappointment, the Assembly of Jamaica came to various resolutions on the state of the island, in which they declared, that the prohibition of passing laws on the subject of religion was a violent infringement of the constitution of the colony; that, until it was withdrawn, it was the duty of the House to exercise their privilege of withholding supplies; and that, after a certain period, until this grievance was redressed, no money should be granted or raised within the island for the support of the military establishment. In consequence of these violent proceedings, the Duke of Manchester, the governor, immediately dissolved the Assembly.

"Not discouraged by these strong measures, the Assembly, in 1810, passed a new act on the subject of religion; and introduced into it such regulations relative to the licensing of preachers, and places of worship, as plainly shewed it was their design to prevent the instruction of the negroes by those who alone were willing to teach them. This law, indeed, was to continue in force only during the year 1811; but this very circumstance, which might seem trivial, displayed the artfulness of the Assembly, being no doubt intended to elude his Majesty's disallowance of the bill; and, by the time that could be notified, the law would have expired, and perhaps a new act passed. How the governor, in direct contradiction to an express com-

mand from his Majesty, should have given his assent to such a bill, it is not easy to explain.

"The Methodists were the persons chiefly aimed at by the legislature of Jamaica, in all the laws which they passed on the subject of religion; and it is obvious, that their progress could scarcely fail to be impeded by such frequent acts of hostility. Many of their members, as might naturally be expected, drew back, while others were prevented by their masters from attending divine worship.

"We are concerned to state, that the spirit of opposition to the instruction of the slaves in Jamaica still continues, notwithstanding the repeated interference of his Majesty's government. In August 1812, Mr Wiggins, one of the Methodist missionaries in Jamaica, was thrown into prison for a month, for preaching in their chapel on the Lord's Day; and, indeed, the magistrates appeared to be determined that the missionaries should not be permitted to preach in any part of the island.

"Besides these missionary establishments, the Methodists have sent preachers to Barbadoes, St Bartholomew's, Grenada, Trinidad, St Thomas's, New Providence, and the other Bahama islands; but as nothing interesting or important occurs in the history of these missions, we shall pass them without further notice, and shall only subjoin a general view of the state of the whole in the year 1811.

Islands.	Missionaries.	Whites.	Black and Coloured.	Total.
Antigua,	3	22	2385	2407
St Christopher's,	4	31	2322	2353
Tortola and the other Virgin Islands,	4	56	2120	2176
St Vincent's,	3	12	1121	1133
Nevis,	2	16	866	—
Jamaica,	2	—	—	865
Dominica,	2	—	—	609
New Providence, and other Bahama Islands,	3	254	251	505
St Eustatius,	—	3	243	246
St Bartholomew's,	—	—	200	200
Trinidad,	1	2	186	188
Bermuda,	1	29	106	135
Grenada,	1	—	—	93
St Thomas's,	—	—	—	69
Barbadoes,	1	—	—	40
Total,	27			11,892

"Besides the missions in the West India islands, connected with the conference in England, the Methodists in America have laboured with considerable success

among the negroes and people of colour in that quarter of the globe, as appears from the following statement of the numbers of them who were members of their societies in the year 1804.

" Western conference,	518
" Southern ditto,	3446
" Virginia ditto,	3757
" Baltimore ditto,	6877
" Philadelphia ditto,	8442
" New York ditto,	432
" New England ditto,	59
" Total,	23,531."

" Besides the negroes and people of colour, who are members of the Methodist society in the West Indies and America, it is necessary to remark, there are still greater numbers, who, though not in connexion with them, attend upon their worship, and enjoy the benefit of their instructions. In 1793, their regular congregation in the West India islands alone comprehended at least thirty thousand persons; and, in 1809, it was estimated that they consisted of not less than one hundred and twenty thousand, most of whom would otherwise have been left totally destitute of the means of religious instructions.

" In comparing the numbers in the Methodist societies in successive years, nothing is more striking than the

frequent and sudden variations which have taken place in the amount of their numbers. It must, however, be remarked, that the negroes in the Methodist societies are not like the members of other churches; few of them comparatively have been baptized or admitted to the Lord's Supper. They have simply agreed to submit to the discipline of the Methodists, and professed a desire to flee from the wrath to come; so that, as these are the only qualifications which are necessary to constitute a member, it is no wonder that their number is liable to great variations. Besides, the missionaries are in general not fixed, but ambulatory, in the same manner as their preachers are in this country. After remaining two or three years in one island, they remove to another, and are succeeded by a new brother; a circumstance which must have no small influence in producing this irregularity in the number of their members.

"The Methodist missions in the West Indies are subject to the general direction of the conference, or annual meeting of the preachers, by whom they have hitherto been committed to the particular superintendence of the Reverend Dr Coke, whose zealous and indefatigable exertions have been the principal mean of their original establishment and their subsequent support. To assist him in the management of so arduous and important a charge, the conference have also appointed a committee of finance and advice, consisting of all the ministers of the connexion resident in London.

"It is perhaps scarcely necessary to remark, that few of the missionaries are men of what is usually termed liberal education. "Though we judge (say the committee) that human learning, if accompanied with piety and humility, is not only a desirable embellishment, but a very important advantage to Christian missionaries, yet we by no means deem it indispensibly necessary. We have found by experience, that men of sound judgment, of ready utterance, and of burning zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of men, well acquainted with experimental religion, with the holy Scriptures, and the great doctrines of Christianity, though destitute of classical learning, have been the instruments of converting thousands from the error of their ways, and of building up believers in their most holy faith. The aid of men thus qualified and thus honoured we dare not refuse, [when immortal creatures are perishing for lack of knowledge. But we endeavour to be very careful that all our missionaries, if not men of general science, should at least understand that particular science which they are employed to teach, the gospel of Christ Jesus.

"The leading doctrines taught by all our missionaries are the following: The eternal existence of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: The total ignorance, sinfulness, misery, and helplessness of man: The necessity of remission of sins, and of a complete renewal of the heart, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after the image of him that created us: The in-

finite mercy and grace of God as the only source of man's redemption; and the atonement made by Jesus Christ for the sins of the whole world. They constantly affirm, that the mediatorial work of Christ is the sole meritorious cause of salvation; that whatever subordinate means may be employed, the Holy Spirit is the grand and proper agent of the work of grace in the heart; that repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, are necessary to the sinner's actual participation of pardon and eternal life; and that believers must persevere in holiness to the end of their days, in order that their labour may not be in vain in the Lord.

"Among the members of the Methodist societies in the West Indies, there are not a few, we hope, who are sincere converts to the Christian faith, though we fear there is a considerable tincture of enthusiasm among them. All of them, so far as is known, fulfil with propriety the relative duties of life, even their own masters being judges. Or if any occasionally transgress the rules of morality, they are excluded from the connexion, at least after neglecting due reproof. They have all abandoned the practice of polygamy, the besetting sin of the negroes. And the fatal influence of Obeah, or witchcraft, which is often productive of most terrible mischief among the slaves, is effectually destroyed wherever Christianity prevails. As a proof of the general good conduct of the converts, it is not unworthy of notice, that, where an office, which requires trust and

confidence, becomes vacant, it is a usual practice for the planters and managers to inquire for a religious negro to fill it. Indeed, in Antigua, Nevis, Tortola, and St Vincent's, the proprietors of estates, and the other inhabitants, are so fully satisfied with the conduct of the missionaries, and so sensible of the political as well as moral and religious advantages resulting from their labours, that they entirely support the missions in these islands by their voluntary contributions."

ABUSE OF RELIGION,

ON THE PART OF CERTAIN

METHODIST MISSIONARIES

IN THE

WEST INDIES.

ABUSE OF RELIGION,

ON THE PART OF CERTAIN

METHODIST MISSIONARIES

IN THE

WEST INDIES.

THE public papers have lately given a desirable currency to the following extract from the minutes of the House of Assembly of St Vincent's, dated May 3. 1816.

The following message came from the Council. "This Board further recommends, that an act of legislature should be immediately framed for the better regulation of the Methodist mission in this government; and that dissenting preachers, of every denomination, should in future not be allowed to preach within it, until they have entered into securities, themselves in L.400 currency, and two freeholders in the like sum

each; that no doctrine or opinions shall be inculcated, or circulated by them, unfriendly to the system of government established in this colony, or inconsistent with the duty slaves owe to their masters. And that every such preacher shall also take a solemn oath, binding himself in the observance of this obligation; and, further, deposing he has no connexion, and holds, or will hold, any correspondence, directly or indirectly, with any self-created society, or any other unauthorized set of men in England, who, either directly or indirectly, have, or shall attempt to interfere in the relation between master and slave in these colonies.

"ANDREW ROSE,
"Clerk of the Council."

To which was returned the following answer. "The recommendation suggested by your Honourable Board, for obviating as much as possible the baneful and pestilent doctrines of certain Methodist missionaries within this government, has long been a subject of most serious reflection in this House. And it pledges itself to lend its hearty aid and co-operation to carry into full force and efficiency any law or laws which may be framed by your Honourable Board, for remedying the evil complained of.

"ALEXANDER CRUICKSHANK, Speaker."

The reader, on perusing these documents, will doubtlessly call to his recollection, that this is not the first

instance in which, in one or other of the British colonies in the West Indies, the necessity of repressing the irregularities of certain Methodist missionaries have been felt. The history of one of these transactions has been copiously and forcibly given by the very able writer of one of the pamphlets on the slave registry question; and there can be no time more proper than the present, for transcribing it in all its details into these pages.

"Information being given to General Hislop (govenor of Trinidad) that a Mr Tallboys preached doctrines which were highly inflammatory and dangerous to a congregation composed almost exclusively of free coloured persons and slaves, he instituted an inquiry into the fact, which led to various reports and petitions, both from the opposers and supporters of Mr Tallboys, of which the following is an abstract.

"Mr Lewis Bryer and Mr William Horn stated, that they had heard him address his congregation in words to the following effect: "It is of no consequence "of what colour you are, for the white men will be "burning in hell, while all of you who have faith in "the gospel will be enjoying bliss in heaven. It does "not signify how heinous the crimes ye are guilty of, "if ye return to me, and receive the influence of the "gospel."

"A petition from several free coloured persons was presented in his favour, which stated, among other things, that he had been regularly ordained by Dr Cooke, titular Bishop of the Episcopal Methodist

Church in London. A petition from other free coloured persons was presented against him, which stated him to be a man without education, who had formerly been a soldier in the 14th regiment: That his constant practice was to make proselytes among the females of their class: That his nocturnal meetings, when he retired after service with his chosen and select, were suspicious, especially as every door and gate were locked; and a good religion (the petitioners say), may it please your Excellency, requires no locks nor fastenings.

"Natty Mackenzie, a mulatto girl, declared, that Tallboys not only gave her a severe reprimand, but threatened to excommunicate her, for paying half a dollar to see Follernus's play, which he said she ought to have given to him the said Tallboys.

"A petition, signed by several white inhabitants, represented that the minds of the free coloured persons and slaves were perniciously influenced by dangerous doctrines of equality, calculated to propagate anarchy and insubordination, preached to them by one Tallboys, formerly a serjeant in his Majesty's 14th regiment of foot, but now a Methodist preacher, acting under a certificate from Mr Cooke in London, and who levied contributions from his followers, which they could not honestly afford, but must procure by robbery or frauds practiced on the masters of slaves, or the public in general.

"The Reverend Mr Clapham stated Dr Cooke to be the same person who, in 1774, left a curacy in Eng-

land, to follow Mr Wesley to America, where Mr Wesley consecrated him one of the bishops of the Episcopal Methodist church; but that Mr Wesley, not being a bishop himself, could not make a bishop: he might as well have attempted to make a primitive apostle, or a pope. Mr Clapham denied the right of Mr Tallboys to officiate in administering the sacrament, to baptize, or marry; all which right he not only claimed, but exercised.

"Governor Hislop, who had ordered the chapel where Mr Tallboys preached to be shut up while this inquiry was pending, having taken these statements into consideration, cautioned him to be more careful in his language; forbade him to preach after certain hours in the evening; and prohibited him from taking the surplice fees belonging to the minister of the established church. Mr Tallboys complained of the treatment he met with to his friends at home, at whose instance Governor Hislop was called upon by his Majesty's ministers to give an account of his conduct; which he did, by transmitting them copies of the different petitions above referred to; on perusing which, the friends of Mr Tallboys thought proper to desist from any future investigation.

"As this case stands recorded in the office of the secretary of state for the colonial department, it has been selected in preference to others, as a specimen of the character and doctrines of those whose "charitable "zeal" has been checked by the West India legisla-

tures. A sufficient justification of their taking measures to check such zeal will be found in the narrative itself, without enlarging upon it by any comments."

"Of any charge, in the meantime, to which these proceedings in the colonies might be suspected to give colour, of a disposition on the part of the colonists to withhold religious instruction from the slaves, the strong, particular, and unassailable testimony recently borne, in an august assembly, to the favourable reception now and always experienced by the missionaries of the Moravian church is a complete refutation. By the force of that testimony, the question is narrowed to one exclusively between the colonists and the Methodists. It is not religious missionaries in general whom the former reject, but particular Methodist missionaries, against whose conduct they are obliged to take measures of self-defence.

"As to the right of every community to protect itself, by the best attainable laws against the abuses of religion, all the experience of the world, and all the conclusions of ordinary understanding, will concur in establishing that it exists. The evils which men are capable of producing, the crimes which they are capable of committing, under the powerful name of religion, has been felt in all times and countries. There are those, indeed, who affect, by their doctrines, to raise above the reach of human legislation all matters touching religion. A bold imposture, which, though we find it in the mouths of some who call, and perhaps fancy, them-

selves the friends of religious liberty, is in reality the basis of religious despotism; for, if those who clothe themselves with the name of religion, are at once released from all obedience to law, what is society but a victim laid in fetters at their feet? Only a few words shall be added to this question. The measure proposed by the council of St Vincent's is equally distinguished by vigour and propriety. In England, no Protestant teacher can lawfully preach but in a licensed meeting-house; and were other restraints found to be necessary, we should not hesitate at resorting to them. The legislature of St Vincent's will act upon this principle; and when that body shall have proceeded to require every preacher to take an oath that he neither has nor will have any correspondence, &c.; and will but have followed the prudent steps of the mother country, which has so long and so anxiously protected herself, by the wisdom of her laws, from the domination of the court of Rome; and which, amid the political troubles, of more recent origin, set herself against those affiliated and self-created societies and bodies of men, of whose plans and principles she had reason to be apprehensive.

"But the question is asked, How can the peace of society be disturbed by the diffusion of religious knowledge? It is so asked, as already intimated, in contempt of all the experience of mankind. Who will define religious knowledge? Religious knowledge is the knowledge of the doctrines of religion. And what are the

doctrines of religion? Religion is whatever men teach it to be. Every man who does what he believes to be the will of God, and does it because he believes it to be the will of God, is a religious man. And who shall determine what a man shall believe to be the will of God? The same voice of religion, which bids an African monarch slaughter thousands of his prisoners or subjects, in sacrifice to the manes of his ancestors, may bid an European zealot slaughter thousands of English colonists at the shrine of negro emancipation."

In the island of Jamaica, Methodist missionaries were establishing a weighty influence, and contrary to the more rational means of effecting it adopted by the united brethren. They held secret meetings at improper hours, where there was reason to fear purposes subversive of the order of things were going forward. To suppress such meetings became an unavoidable duty; and, though punishments of a rigorous nature followed against those preachers who had conducted themselves improperly, their own misdeeds, by mingling other subjects with religious instruction, brought down the vengeance of the laws on them.

The zeal and moderation of the Moravian missionaries could not fail of having a powerful effect on the minds of every description of persons. One of them, named Dober, had it in contemplation to sell himself as a slave, to afford him an opportunity of instructing the negroes. The purity of their intentions, the patience with which they bore extreme distress, and their earnestness under ac-

cumulated hardships, to fulfil the purposes of their mission, are admirable traits, to which the most fastidious should admit that they are fully entitled.

In the Dutch islands the united brethren were uncommonly well received. The governor and other authorities encouraged them. The brethren proceeded in their work, and made a considerable number of converts.

The jealousy entertained of every description of missionaries in the island of Jamaica, from the year 1754 to 1804, is pretty clearly shewn, when we find that, in fifty years, where there was a population of nearly three hundred thousand negro slaves on an average, only nine hundred and thirty-eight were baptized, and probably some of these of a free description.

The Methodist ministers, by secret meetings, and holding forth dangerous tenets, have drawn on themselves much of that oppression of which they complain in Jamaica. Their uneducated character,—their want of knowledge of the world,—the characteristic violence of the sect,—their prejudices against our negro system, led them to express opinions, and to inculcate doctrines, which would overturn the government if allowed to proceed. These have very properly had great weight with the island of Jamaica; and though I would be rather disposed to watch their proceedings than to forbid their preachings, when kept within due bounds, it must be at the same time admitted, that the legislature of Jamaica did well to treat them so as to secure the departure of many of them from the island.

'I shall not omit this opportunity to recommend that the legislature of Jamaica may assist the established clergy of the island to accomplish that which, if thus assisted, should be done by them, namely, the conversion of the negroes and others to the Christian faith. A little consideration will shew that, in the possession of respectable clergymen of the Church of England, a great deal of more wholesome service might be thus administered than by any description of dissenters. It is, however, unfortunate that the clergy of the established church are not always possessed of the necessary enthusiasm and zeal, where there is such a wide field for their successful labours; and, therefore, if the enactment of laws could enforce certain rules to govern their operations in the discharge of religious instruction, I see no reason why these men should sit down in the enjoyment of full livings, without doing their duty.

At Antigua, the missions have been more successful. The inhabitants have afforded every assistance and facility to the instruction of negroes; but they have found that Sunday is sufficient to inform them on the most material points of religion; and the Lancastrian plan has been adopted with success.

The irreligious dispositions of the greater proportion of the inhabitants of Jamaica have been the cause of a continued outcry against the Methodist and other missions. Though such alarms may be sometimes well founded, the necessary cautions may be observed, without

obstructing the means of instruction, and delinquency punished to the extent of banishment from the island; but the expediency of total exclusion cannot be admitted against missionaries, either on considerations of duty or right. The effects of wholesome instruction was exemplified at Tobago in 1801. The firing of the gun on Christmas eve was to have been the signal for destruction of all the white people by the negroes. The plot was fortunately discovered; but it is peculiarly meritorious to the teachers of religion in that island, and affords a striking example of the effects of their admission to be Christians under good instructors, that no negro slave who had been admitted a Christian was concerned in that projected rebellion.

A willingness to give credit to statements which have a tendency to establish the moral and religious good effects of these instructors, has induced me to introduce the above report. But it appears to me to be imperfect; and I am not supplied with the means of information necessary to give the negro Christians in Tobago that credit of which they may be deserving.'

Religious instruction, if it has operated effectually, would establish the criminality of associating with others in an extensive scene of murder and desolation, such as that projected by the Tobago negroes; but Dr Brown, in his account of these missions, should have made it fully understood whether these Christian negroes were directly or indirectly in the knowledge of that insurrection contemplated by the others of their own colour.

If it is possible to affirm that they were not acquainted with their intentions, then the Christian negroes are deserving of more credit than has been given to them. But if in any shape informed of what was intended upon the Christmas evening gun being fired, their religion must become their condemnation; their criminality of a deeper hue than those barbarous negroes who had never been instructed in the benevolent duties of Christians.

It is an unfortunate circumstance, in an inquiry after truth, that the relation of circumstances on such an occasion should not be fully laid before the public. Only from such *data* can the world judge of the good effects of religious instruction among West India negroes. Fallacy and concealment can have no permanent effects in favour of any cause, but particularly that of Christian instruction. If there are any sophistical professors of that holy office, who would pervert its pure purposes to falsehood and treachery, they are the greatest enemies of Christianity; and disgrace that office, which should be held up to the world, characterized by exemplary conduct, truth, purity of heart, love and good will to the human race.

The Moravian brethren instruct the negroes to be industrious in their habits. In that, as well as other points, I conceive their system of religious instruction to be better than the Methodist missionaries. So far as the West India missionaries have to act in these islands, the establishment of exemplary moral duties

during the week, while engaged in their own and their masters' labour, and the pious observance of Sunday, should constitute the principal part of that which belongs to the duty of missionaries.

The public may be pretty confidently assured, that however indiscreet the steps which have been taken in some of the islands against missionaries may appear, and even in the island of Jamaica, I am far from approving of them to the extremes they have been carried. We cannot deny, that men of cultivated understandings, proprietors, or their representatives, and others, who have weighty dependencies there, must yield their consent to preach among the negroes with great circumspection. The capacity, judgment, disposition, and character of the missionary, should undergo a thorough and satisfactory investigation; and, where these points appear to be fully answered, a license will not be denied to exercise his office accordingly.

When we hear of a shipwright being sent to Antigua, to work in the dock-yard, and to preach religion to the blacks, it is incumbent on that country to know what kind of doctrine is attempted to be disseminated among the ignorant negroes. The employment of persons indiscriminately, who profess *a burning zeal* for religion, without possessing the other accomplishments so inseparably required of any Christian teacher, has a natural tendency to raise doubts and fears of the soundness and probable effects of his instructions. From that cause, more than any other, has the progress of religion

been impeded in the West Indies, and not solely to that hostile enmity to the Church of God which has been alleged against the colonists. It is fully admitted, in course of this work, how wanting the colonists are in religious and moral duties; but it must be also acknowledged, that permanent effects are not likely to be established in these islands by the agency of Methodist missionaries, unless they permit themselves to act under the controul of laws calculated to prevent dangerous doctrines, and to keep within temperate bounds that *burning zeal* they would pretend to say has supplied the want of other embellishments, and that education of which every minister of our religion should be possessed.

At Surinam, we find that the persevering services of the Moravian brethren were exercised under the most severe privations. Idolatry was a prevailing error in that country. The united brethren exerted themselves with considerable success in exposing their absurdity, as will be seen by referring to that story of the native shooting the crocodile; but other circumstances will shew how devoted some of the people were to their imaginary gods; and no powers which the united brethren could exercise, would induce them to depart from so absurd a superstition. The unhealthiness of the climate, and other adverse circumstances, obliged the few of the brethren still alive to escape from it.

The disinterestedness of the united brethren, with regard to their participation of the good things of life,

and the willingness with which so many of them gave up their lives, produced no difficulty in prevailing on others to step forward to fill up these vacancies. They seem, indeed, to have been possessed with genuine zeal for extending the influence of Christianity; and have done much useful service, by their humility and exemplary conduct, to those heathen countries to which they extended their exertions.

The Methodist missionaries at first met with considerable encouragement at St Vincent's. It was afterwards much the reverse; and every measure that could be imagined was resorted to, in hopes of their quitting the island. But fine, imprisonment, banishment, and death, if a person should return from banishment, with all their terrors, has not yet relieved the island from them.

A gentleman of intelligence, and long standing in that island, had the goodness to inform me, that their preachings openly were not objectionable; and that, if they confined themselves to these, they would be even encouraged by government; but secret meetings were held. Inferior teachers among the negroes were instructed at hold these; and it was discovered that doctrines, not in the spirit of peace, which distinguishes Christianity, were promulgated. It was not possible to reconcile the public safety with such conduct on the part of the Methodist missionaries. The people of St Vincent's are anxious to get rid of them; and will most probably succeed; for they are odious to all the respectable persons of the island. Their admonitions have a

tendency to idleness, and to produce disaffection, if not worse, among the negro labourers.

The Methodist missionaries alleged that, at St Christopher's, the state of debasement to which the negro is reduced, by slavery, labour, &c. renders their minds unfit for religious instruction. I am sorry to say of any of the teachers of Christianity, that it is an iniquitous and unfounded opinion. For negroes, to be brought from that state of ignorance they were born in, must be instructed by slow and gentle means. They are very generally well disposed for instruction, and imbibe the lessons of their teachers with avidity. An injudicious *burning zeal*, proceeding from the mouth of a fanatic, uneducated, and therefore unable to convey the wholesome principles of Christianity in a fit manner to the unconverted negro, will undoubtedly find, as a white man would do under such circumstances, that instead of receiving comfortable truths in a strain of persuasive intelligible eloquence, they are bewildered by the inaptitude of the instructor's language.

The allegeance that negroes are less susceptible of instruction than whites generally are, is so far disposed of; and it leads me to remark with what facility the negro children may be taught to read. It will be confessed, by those who have been accustomed to know them in infancy, that their vivacity and ability are evidently well calculated to a purpose so important, and which, it is trusted, will not be omitted in future.

As the question of extended instruction may be con-

ceived unwise to the rising generation of Creole negroes in the West Indies, it will not be disputed, that reading the Bible and other sacred books should be an acquirement. Sunday schools, under proper directors, would be sufficient for that object, until establishments of a more extensive nature are formed; and they should be certainly under the superintendance of the rector of each parish, who would have a competent number of ushers to carry on the labourious duties of teaching.

The visit of the Methodist missionaries to St Eustatius, in 1787, was extremely unsuccessful. The Dutch governor determined not to permit the missionaries to preach. Their departure, therefore, would have been more prudent and becoming; but it appears that secret instructions were going on from the Methodists to the negroes. This discovers the intriguing dispositions of the Methodists. These secret instructions were probably of an ambiguous and of a dangerous nature to the security of the island.

At Tortola, an invasion from the French was expected; and such is the influence of a Methodist missionary, that, in expected danger, the governor does not expect to resist successfully, unless the Methodist parson takes the command of the negroes. He does so, under an apprehension that his religious establishment would be destroyed if the French carried it. Fortunately, the missionary's services were not called for in that new post of hostility to the enemy, as the French, on the discovery of such a force, retired.

The danger of affording opportunities to crafty missionaries to establish a political influence would be highly hazardous to our colonies; and the circumstance brought forward, of the missionary heading the negroes to oppose invasion at Tortola, appears to me to be a strong and unanswerable reason for watching their measures, at whichever of the West India islands they attempt to establish a footing.

As sincere teachers of religion, they ought to evade every thing which can agitate a doubt on the part of the civil power, that they entertain any intention of establishing political influence; for I fear that, on account of instances having occurred of a want of the open fair manner of instruction peculiar to the Moravian brethren, the Methodists in the West Indies have been looked up to as a suspicious and intriguing description of people. It is not, therefore, to pure religion many West Indians object, but to the poisonous ingredients which wicked teachers would mingle with the food of life.

Though I am not in possession of documents to which a reference can be made concerning Jamaica, against which country anathemas have been pronounced by the Methodist missionaries, sufficient information might be vouched for, to prove that the government of that island acted wisely in forming laws for the prevention of unqualified persons from preaching, or by secret measures, and at improper times, having intercourse with the negroes.

It was in the island of Jamaica, as in many others,

the misfortune of the whites and negroes, that men whose intentions were not pure,—whose zeal was ill directed and phrenitic,—and, added to all these, excessively ignorant,—were those persons appointed to teach and to convert. It was natural to look after such men with a jealous and watchful eye; and those consequences ensued which we have already extracted from Dr Brown's work.

That influence which the Methodists have established in Jamaica, has proceeded, in a great measure, from the regardless indifference to duty so prevalent among our established clergy. It appears to me that no religious impressions could be so properly fixed in the minds of our negroes as those in conformity to the established church, if conveyed to the negroes by worthy members, who would devote themselves to the fulfilment of those duties.

The effects of judiciously taught principles of Christianity to negroes, by which some of them have been admitted to baptism, are manifested in that defiance of Obi which their former superstition made them liable to. The same operation on the mind will also prevent so frequent a recurrence of that destructive disease the *mal d'estomac*, when it proceeds from mental affections, connected with that depressing condition which so generally predisposes to it.

When the question of the propriety or impropriety of religious instruction is put to the candid mind, so far as

our negroes in the West Indies are concerned; when that collective information is duly weighed which has been brought together in this work; and when a residence of many years has contributed, with these, to determine our judgment on that momentous topic,—it cannot be deemed premature or assuming to deliver some decisive opinions relating to it.

We are taught to consider that the influence of religion upon morals is of high importance in our temporal concerns. The commission of crimes, in the present stage of existence, are placed in their true colours of enormity as they affect society, the power of wholesome laws to punish them, that disgrace which attends on them, and the feelings of a mind in any degree under the guidance of right and wrong motives, operate against their frequent recurrence.

If instances have been recorded, wherein the powers of religious instruction have had no effect on the minds of negroes, and that, in consequence, it has been considered as a vain and useless attempt to convert them, it has been clearly shewn, on the other side, that they are as capable of conforming themselves to a decent line of Christian-like conduct as we are, and more so than those who too often shew them examples of violation and departure from those rules which should distinguish the persons who assume a Christian name and character.

That unfortunate condition we have known to exist against the prevalence of Christian principles among negroes, has been tolerably accounted for; and to the

defective system which has been pursued are they to be attributed. The fear that has been entertained of enlightening the negroes, has been proved to be erroneous, from experience, at Antigua, and some other places; and I must again add my testimony, that where due instructions were previously given, the universal effect of getting baptized, rendered them more faithful servants, and better men.

It is a question, therefore, in which the responsibility of proprietors, at that high tribunal of a future state, is involved; and I must be permitted to say, that if the magnitude of the subject is well considered, feelings must arise of too commanding a nature to be longer inactive in a matter so full of serious importance, and so inseparably connected with any pretensions to discharge themselves of an imperative duty.

The late venerable Bishop Porteous, who felt on all occasions for the spiritual interests of the human race, in alluding to the condition of negroes, and the attempts made to establish in their minds a knowledge of Christianity, by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, expresses himself thus:—

"It is greatly to be doubted whether these directions have always been punctually complied with, in the degree and to the extent proposed; or, if they have, there is but too much reason to fear that they have by no means fully answered the good intentions of the Society. The truth is, these are excellent *beginnings*, but

they are only *beginnings*, of an effectual and vital conversion of the negroes. A foundation is laid; but it must be laid, I apprehend, still broader and deeper, before it will bear a superstructure of sufficient strength and solidity. If ever, then, we hope to make any considerable progress in our benevolent purpose of communicating to our negroes the benefits and the blessings of religion, we must, as far as is possible, attach them and their families to the soil,—must give them a little interest in it,—must secure them from injury and insult,—must inform their minds, correct their morals, accustom them to the restraints of legal marriage, to the care of a family, and the comforts of domestic life,—and must improve and advance their condition gradually, as they are able to bear it.

"Let, then, our countrymen make haste to relieve, as far as they are able, the calamities affecting the condition of the negroes in a state of servitude, and of ignorance the most deplorable, by contributing to soothe their distresses, and endeavouring to rescue them from the bondage of sin."

As the establishment of Christian habits appears to me to be connected with every thing that is important relative to the West Indies, it is likewise required that the extent of danger incurred by that country, on account of prejudices entertained in these kingdoms, should be fully exposed. This has been attempted; and a sincere wish for the peace of these islands, while wise measures are adopted to establish Christianity, by

the united efforts of proprietors and others, who are heartily disposed to the cause, calls upon every Christian to contribute to such purposes by their best exertions.

It is, however, obviously expedient for those persons well disposed to conversion of the negroes, who have never been in the West Indies, to receive with caution any information prejudicial to the white inhabitants of that country. Evils of deplorable consequence have proceeded already from intemperate zeal, and want of knowledge of the real condition of negroes in the West Indies; and if that object only is in view, which has a tendency to better their condition in a temporal and spiritual sense, opposing factions can have no other tendency than to produce similar disasters as that which has already taken place in Barbadoes; while I venture to assert, that so far as West India proprietors can with propriety, they feel a hearty desire to co-operate with others, who are honestly disposed, to assist them in such a work.

The opinions of men more competent than I am to decide on so important a subject as that of the religious instruction of negroes, seem to be, that our established clergymen should be placed on that high footing of dignity and respectability which would secure to them the reverence of the negroes. The conduct of the clergy, to gain the esteem and regard of these poor people, must be condescending and kind. If their walk through

life corresponds with decency of external appearances, the members of the Established Church will find that their doctrines rest on a foundation of permanency beyond any attempt hitherto made of the kind. To add to such benevolent purposes a more weighty and powerful influence in favour of Christian discipline, a respectable Bishop in Jamaica, to superintend the operations in procedure, would add greatly to the good purposes in which the other clergy of our church are engaged. But it should not be omitted, that certain religious ceremonies, on Sunday, among the whites on plantations, must be observed; and that the contempt they have hitherto shewn for religion, so much a matter of confusion and astonishment to negroes and free persons of colour, shall no more form a part of the annals of that country.

To render the negroes a more useful and better description of people, more faithful to their employers, and improving in health and constitution, as the moral ties become more firmly bound by the benign influence of religion, those concerned, by property, in the Islands, and those who come forward from motives of genuine philanthropy in their behalf, cannot act so efficiently, as by combining their efforts to establish among them that instruction which has become so great a source of blessing to our native country, knows no distinction of colour, and obliges those of property, by its very nature, to extend effectually to negroes the blessings of instruction and comfort. Gratitude even

demands it; for those labourers supply the proprietors with the means of every enjoyment life affords; and, surely, in return, they ought to be supplied with that which makes them better servants here, and secures to them the expectations of a better state in a future world.

CONCLUSION.

The Author has formed his work with as much attention to arrangement and accuracy, as his limited leave of absence from a military situation in Ireland would admit of. But though he would fondly indulge a hope that no matter has been omitted, essential to its objects, he must acknowledge that, in proceeding with the work, he was unable to separate from his mind the harassing apprehensions which accompanied restriction of time, especially in an undertaking to which it has been so much his anxious desire to do justice.

INDEX.

INDEX.

A

Abortion, case of, i. 130, 326.
Acknowledgments for friendship rendered on arrival at Jamaica, i. 40.
Adroo, anti-emetic effects of, i. 302, 389.
Advantages of industrious occupation, i. 60, 83.
Affusion of cold water, i. 178, 201, 237.
African institution, culpable conduct of, i. 326, 338.
African negroes, causes of bad sores in, i. 56.
———————, applications to the skin, hurtful to the health, i. 57.
African slave trade abolished, i. 371.
Africans, some account of, ii. 277.
Air, change of, salutary, i. 54.
Ambition, in persons who emigrate to the West Indies, i. 404.
Amentia Jamaicensis, i. 129, 233; ii. 49.
Amputation, i. 81, 101, 144, 154, 169, 181, 258, 396; ii. 6. 42, 51, 58, 62.
Amputation of a negro's hand, i. 81.
Angola negroes, naturally delicate, i. 177, 209.

Anniversary of Christmas, negro festivities on, i. 59.
Anticipations, improper, i. 271.
Antigua, successful efforts of the missions, ii. 296, 325.
Antimony, tartarized, dangers of, i. 89, 165, 208, 335, 379, 407.
Antimony tartarized, external application of, ii. 72.
Ants, i. 87.
Ants, attack and destroy a woman's life, i. 346.
Anus, prolapsus of, i. 268.
Apoplexy, gouty, i. 223.
Apoplexy, fatal case of, i. 400; ii. 3. 78.
Apprehension of disease improper, i. 60, 83.
Arrow-root, i. 133, 138.
Arsenic drops, i. 312.
Arsenic, fatal effects of, i. 61.
Atmosphere, nature of, in Jamaica, i. 37, 38; ii. 64.
Attention to Europeans newly arrived at Kingston, i. 86.
Attorneys of estates, duties to white men employed, i. 111, 122, 190, 191, 193.
Avarice, defeats its purposes, ii. 11.
Avocado or alligator pear, i. 84, 384.
Awning at sea, use of, i. 17.

B

B——, Miss, nervous affection, i. 381; ii. 29.
Balcarras, Earl of, his candour and politeness, i. 45.
Barbadoes in sight, appearance of the island, i. 25.
Barbadoes, mission to, ii. 298.
Bark, extreme danger of its imprudent administration, i. 209, 275, 309.
Bark administered during fever, i. 218, 222.

Bark, tincture of, to prevent sickness, i. 221 ; ii. 24, 50, 63.
Bark per. by enema, i. 138, 218.
Bark, by enemas, advantages of, ii. 23.
Barley used by negroes, i. 176.
Bay of Biscay, heavy sea swell in, i. 5, 6.
Bath, cold, i. 56.
Baths, warm and cold, in hospitals, i. 156, 188.
Beauty, female, destroyed by mercury in fever, i. 95.
Bed-linen, damp, pernicious, ii. 42.
Begging, unnecessary in Jamaica, i. 381.
Berbice, Rio de, mission to, ii. 302.
Bilge-water, ii. 95, 101.
Bile, increased secretion of, attention to, necessary, i. 400.
Biliary secrections increased in West Indies, i. 39, 202, 206, 399.
Bird, a Newfoundland sea, ii. 96.
Bishop of London, opinions of, ii. 377.
Bishopric suggested for Jamaica, i. 330.
B——, Mr (apopl.) i. 223, 230, 242, 385.
Bleeding, unconquerable prejudice against, i. 360, 361.
Bleeding, in fever, i. 216, 227, 247, 394.
Bleeding, in fever, cautions, ii. 82.
Blister to the head, excellent effects of, ii. 22.
Blisters, numerous applications of in Jamaica, i. 165.
Bogwalk, an unhealthy military post, i. 256.
Bonaparte opposed in Spain, ii. 19.
Bone-ache, dreadful severity of, accounted for, i. 65, hereditary, 66.
Bonnetta fish caught, powers of, i. 7, 23.
Book-keepers, i. 49, 51, 329.
Bowels, spasmodic affections of, i. 365.
Brain, concussion of, i. 72.

Brain, inflammation of, i. 240; ii. 78.
Bridgetown, the capital of Barbadoes, i. 27.
Brixham, Torbay, land at, ii. 100.
Burns, cases of, i. 140, 209.

C

Cachexy, case of, i. 87.
Caldwell, Mr, his hospitality, kindness, &c. i. 46, 47, 145.
Calomel, use of, after a wound in the intestines, i. 195.
Cancer, Tropic of, passed it,—ceremonies on the occassion, i. 17.
Cancer, warty case, excision of, ii. 17.
Canella alba, diuretic effects of, ii. 16.
Canine madness, ii. 37.
Cantharides in locked-jaw, i. 228.
Cape Finisterre, gale off, i. 6.
—— Roxo, i. 30.
—— Samana, i. 31.
—— Nicola Mole, arrived at, description of, i. 33; sickness at, and causes, 34.
Carisbrooke Castle, a visit to, i. 4.
Capsicum useful in putrid sore throat, i. 60
Carrion crows of Jamaica, copulation with dunghill fowls, i. 395.
Cataminia, crisis of fever on their appearance, i. 289, 365.
Catarrh, epidemic, i. 183, 186; ii. 51.
Cattle, treatment of, by negroes, i. 180.
——, disease in, i. 180.
Change of air, healthy tendency after most sicknesses, i. 54, 126, 127, 164, 167, 202, 206, 221, 264, 267, 271, 284.
Cheltenham, West Indians should go there, ii. 101.
Chicken-pox, i. 64.
Children, Creole, progress of, i. 263; ii. 9.

Children, mismanagement of, i. 268, 284; ii. 21, 53.
———, diseases of (sometimes singular), i. 332, 334.
——— in the West Indies, sometimes require European climate, for many reasons, ii. 9, 35.
Christianity among negroes, i. 107, 328, 329, 345; ii. 131.
Christmas, negro festivities on, i. 59, 94, 127, 170; ii. 1, 50, 130.
Christophe, a St Domingo chief, i. 337.
Christophers, St, mission to, ii. 331, 372.
Chronic complaints neglected, i. 55.
Clarke, Dr, my intended partner, i. 47.
Clergy at Madeira, secret influence with a young lady, i. 13.
———, i 233, 329.
———, establishment of in Jamaica, ii. 375, 379.
Climate, diversity of temperature enjoyed in Jamaica, i. 267.
———, change of, advised, i. 332; ii. 5, 44.
———, West India, effects on recently arrived Europeans, i. 39.
Cocoa-nut water recommended for common drink, i. 96.
Coffee planters, hard case of, ii. 13.
Cold water affusion in locked-jaw, i. 67, 82, 85, 109, 147, 178.
Colocynth, as vermifuge, ii. 4.
Combustion of the body from drunkenness, ii. 73.
Comet, appearance of, i. 398; ii. 71.
Commodore and his convoy, i. 5.
———, prudence of, i. 36.
Consolation on departure from home, i. 2.
Consumption, effects of West Indies on, i 205, 300.
——— of the lungs, i. 235, 300; ii. 8, 72, 83.
Contagion in the West Indies, ii. 22, 23.
——— ii. 72.

Convalescence (generally rapid), i. 292; ii. 22.
Convoy, dangers in, i. 24.
——— from Port Royal, ii. 91.
Coote, Sir Eyre, arrival of, with Lady Coote, i. 298, 363.
Copartnership, proceedings concerning it, i. 47.
Coromantee negroes, character of, i. 80, 177.
Corregidor, or chief magistrate, at Madeira, i. 13.
Costiveness, danger of, ii. 56.
Cow-itch, a powerful vermifuge, i. 79, 307.
Creole ladies educated in England, i. 285.
——— negroes, i. 372.
Crooked Island passage, ii. 93.
Croup (cynanche trachealis), i. 336; ii. 36.
Cucumbers, pickled, suspected to have been fatal in a case of gout, i. 407.
Curiosity at sea, i. 6, 7,
Cynanche maligna (putrid sore throat), i. 60.

D

Dancing in Jamaica, remarks on, i. 48, 285.
Danger of long journies, in fever, i. 399.
Death, sudden, i. 204.
Delays in sickness, danger of, ii. 81.
Departure from home, reflections on, i. 1.
Desertas, near Maderia, description of, i. 8.
Diarrhœa, i. 138, 194.
Digitalis, effects of, i. 213, 225, 240, 248, 365, 403.
Diseases, diversity of in negroes and whites, i. 185.
Diseases, peculiarity of West India, i. 292.
Disobedience attempted by a passenger to standing regulations, i. 15.

Dissections resisted by negroes, i. 82.
Dominica, mission to, ii. 328.
Dropsy, i. 213, 214, 225, 231, 240, 365, 403.
Drunkenness, i. 106, 154, 184, 199, 217, 241, 265, 310, 319, 337, 361, 366, 385; ii. 11, 21, 33, 73.
Drunkenness, instances of its abandonment, i. 265.
——————— in females, additionally disgusting, i. 266.
Dry belly-ache, i. 243; ii. 20.
Dry weather, continued, unpleasant, i. 71, 185, 231, 234, 368, 380, 383, 385.
Duckworth, Sir John, defeats a French fleet, i. 299.
Dwellings, health of, i. 106, 107.
Dysentery, i. 90, 138, 142, 148, 155, 163, 171, 178, 292, 300, 384, 402; ii. 87.
Dysuria, gouty, i. 102.

E

Earthquake, i. 197; feelings attending on, ii. 89.
Eau medicinale, a dangerous medicine, ii. 70.
Eboe negroes, i. 177.
Education, strictures on, i. 285.
Edwards, Mr Bryan, his family, i. 40.
Electric vapour in atmosphere, i. 198.
Electricity, effects of in palsy and Obi (sorcery), i. 144, 166; ii. 43.
Elephantiasis treated by arsenic, i. 110, 396.
Emancipation of negroes, its cruelty and absurdity, i. 345.
Engagement at sea, i. 32.
England, church of, i. 22.
Estates, how conducted, i. 51.
Europeans who go to the West Indies, observations on, ii. 237.

Eustatius, St, mission to, ii. 332, 373.
Expenditure of rum and sugar on estates, i. 96.
Eye-case successfully treated, i. 58.

F

Fall of the year, i. 210, 401 ; ii. 49.
Family, return to, ii. 102.
Females, necessity of exercise in Spanish Town, &c. i. 259.
Fever, affusion of cold water in, i. 177.
—— intermittent, i. 56 ; complicated with worms, fatal, i. 81, 111.
—— rheumatic, i. 275.
—— sponging the body with vinegar and water in, i. 237.
—— slight symptoms of relief, i. 38.
—— liability of Europeans under puberty to the Endemia, ii. 28.
—— with hysteria, &c. i. 324.
Fevers, in West Indies, must be carefully watched, i. 160, 164, 296, 323.
—— in the West Indies, remarks on, i. 340.
Filial duties, pleasures of, i. 16.
Filthyness on board merchantmen, consequences of, i. 21.
Fire, danger of in the Jonah, handsome conduct of the commodore, i. 16.
Fire-fly, first appearance of, i. 44.
Fire-places recommended, i. 127, 171.
Fistula in ano, i. 181 ; prognosis generally unfavourable, 182 ; ii. 8.
Fits, affectation of, i. 260.
—— epileptic, ii. 84.
—— (with worms and fever) ii. 9, 53, 65.
Flying-fish, i. 17, 21, 29 ; ii. 95,

Foot, injury of, operation recommended, i. 311.
Fort-Royal, Martinque, i. 27.
Fort-Edward, ditto unhealthy situation, &c. i. 28, 29.
Fracture of the thigh-bone, i. 78, 360; ii. 55.
Franciscan convent at Madeira, an extraordinary appearance of human bones in, i. 14.
Friar, at Madeira, artifice of, with a female, i 12.
Friend, a, unexpectedly met at Barbadoes, i. 27.
Friendship, instance of, i. 252.
Fruit, unripe, hurtful to negroes, i. 148.
Fruits, variety of, in Jamaica, i. 36.
Funchal Bay, Madeira, i. 8.
——— inhabitants of, i. 10.
——— ladies of, i. 14.

G

Gambling, &c. consequences of, i. 30.
Gall-stones, ii. 48.
Galvanism, unlucky effects of, ii. 44.
Goat, a milch, singularities of, i. 17.
Gonorrhoea, i. 141, 227.
Gout, i. 145, 242, 249, 333, 334, 336; in a negro, 344, 386, 407; ii. 20.
—— its severity in the West Indies, ii. 69.
Governors and Lieutenant-Governors, gaiety at Kings-house, i. 285.
——— their routs injurious to health, i. 285.
——— introduction to, important, i. 45.
Governors for Jamaica, important trust, i. 364.

G———, Mr (remittent), i. 246; ii. 14, 26.
Grampuses, appearance of, i. 6.
Growing, in young people, opinion on, ii. 8.
Guinea worm, probable causes, treatment, i. 57.
——— corn, i. 137.
Gum Guaiacum, styptic powers of, i. 336.
Gutzmer, Anthony, rebellious negro, i. 362.

H.

Health, contributions to, in Jamaica, i. 83, 84.
Heat of climate, not so prejudicial to health, i. 219, 280.
Helmsman, not to be spoken to, i. 6.
Hemorrhoids, i. 268.
Heneaga, ii. 93.
Hiccup, in fever, alarming, i. 333.
Hooping-cough (cold bath in), i. 56, 62, 64, 76, 77, 264, 284.
——————— mortality in, i. 264.
Horse, maintained at, in dry weather, i. 188.
Hospitals for negroes, i 54, 83, 156, 188, 325.
Hospitality at Jamaica, i. 38, 48.
Hurricane, antecedant state of weather, ii. 61.
Hurricane months, i. 53, 217.
Hurricanes, supposed influence on health, i. 247.
Hydrophobia, ii. 37.
Hypochondriacs, considerations on their unhappy state, ii. 31.
Hypochondriasis and hysteria, i. 257.
Hysteria, singular case of, i. 113; ii. 20.

I

Jalap, recommended occasionally with bark, ii. 15.
Jamaica, island of, approach to it, i. 36.
——— variety of climate it affords, i. 36.
——— aspect of, in June, i. 81.
——— its resources against scarcity, i. 172.
——— homeward bound from, ii. 90.
——— mission to, ii. 337.
——— cautions necessary to license preachers in, ii. 369.
Jaw, fracture of, i. 248.
Ice water, fatal to a negro, ii. 80.
Idiotism, after typhus, successfully treated, ii. 22.
Jean Rabel Point, a contest, a British merchantman escaped, i. 32.
Jealousy, in negroes, i. 128.
Jew fish, oppressive to the stomach, and too rich, i. 40.
Industry, &c. will secure employment in Jamaica, i. 46.
Infants, management of at birth, i. 130.
Influenza, i. 183, 186; ii. 107.
Inhabitants of different colours, distinctions necessary, remarks, i. 52.
Industrious pursuits, necessity for, in Jamaica, i. 60, 88, 97.
Intermittent, uncommon in new comers, i. 121.
Intermittents, liability to formation of, i. 100, 111, 126, 128, 206, 230, 234, 247, 271, 303, 305; ii. 28, 50, 88.
Intestines, inflammation of, i. 170.
——— wound in, i. 194.
——— torpor of, i. 261.
Invalids sent home from foreign parts, ii. 39.
Journal of practice, monthly, i. 52, 97, 161.

Ipecacuanha, compound powder of, in concussion of the brain, i. 73
———— its excellent properties, i. 176.
Ireland, recommended to attention of the African Association, i. 315.
Iron, muriate tincture of, ii. 66, 68.
Irritation of stomach, unyielding, remedy successful, i. 84.
Island, distress of, i. 251.
Jurisprudence, medical in a case of murder, i. 50.
———— ii. 11.

K

Kent, Duke of, gallant conduct at Martinique, i. 28.
Kingston, Jamaica (arrival at), i. 36, 38.
———— nature of its climate, early rising, i. 38.
Kings-house, Spanish Town, i. 45.
Knee, wound in, treatment of, i. 196.

L

L——, Mr (apoplectic), fever, bleeding, i. 394.
Labour, consequence of mismanagement in, i. 71.
Ladies, our fellow passengers, advantages of such society, i. 8.
——, excellent conduct of, our prospects of parting, i. 25.
Land, welcome annunciation of, i. 8, 24.
——, English, annunciation of, ii. 100.
Laudanum, extended use of, in locked-jaw, i. 67.
———— taken by mistake, dangerous effects, i. 352.
Laxatives, powerful, necessary in the West Indies, i. 196, 199, 200, 267, 298, 407.
Laxative, effect of, in oppressed stomach, i. 40.

Leeches, seldom to be procured, i. 461.
Leg, amputation of, remarks on dressings, i. 98.
——, fracture of, i. 333.
Legislature, provisions by, for cure of sick negroes necessary, i. 89; should secure medical attendance to negroes, i. 274.
——, interference of, to prevent unqualified medical men from practising, i. 189.
Leucorrhœa in a little girl, i. 266.
Life, tenacity for, i. 230.
Lightning (fatal) i. 106, 188; ii. 9
—— and thunder, i. 24.
Line, crossing the, ceremony of ducking, &c. i. 17.
Linnet soared round the ship, i. 6.
Liver, diseased, i. 103, 180, 213, 230, 234, 272, 339, 384, 386, 402; ii. 5, 45, 56, 63, 79, 85.
——, suspected affection of, i. 240.
Living, thoughts on the most adviseable way of, on arriving at Jamaica, i. 39.
Locked-jaw, i. 66, 82, 85, 109, 112, 147, 178, 181, 228, 367, 396; ii. 69.
Longevity, i. 357.
Luxation of the *os humeri*, or shoulder joint, i. 399.

M

Madeira, island of, first appearance of, i. 8.
——, hospitality of, i. 10.
——, excursion to the Mount, palanquins, mules, &c. i. 11.
——, necessary cautions at, i. 14.
——, probable effects on consumptive persons, i. 15.
——, departure from, i. 15.

M———, Mr, danger of bark, i. 200, 292; ii. 67.
Maggots formed in the nose, i. 211.
Maidstone frigate, admirable order of, hospitality, i. 15.
Mal d'estomac, (stomach evil), i. 93, 299; ii. 261.
Malignant fever, weather predisposing to it, ii. 83.
Mammary swelling, producing hysteria, i. 78.
Mango-tree, i. 384.
Marriage among negroes, i. 372.
Martial law proclaimed, i. 94, 250, 255.
Martinique, i. 27, 28.
May seasons, i. 78, 144, 238.
Measles, ii. 33.
Medical men, duties to sick negroes, i. 52; its pleasures and policy, 53, 66, 120, 274.
Medical practitioners, observations on, &c. in Jamaica, ii. 177.
Medical practitioners, cabals, i. 39; their grades, 190.
Medical practitioners, extenson of faculty to stock, &c. i. 180.
Medical department, plantation practice, observations on, ii. 187.
Mental affections, complicated with fever, i. 124; ii. 2, 3, 21, 44; influence on disease, ii. 69, 78.
Mercury, effects of, in liver complaints, i. 180, 273; ii. 48.
——— in locked jaw, i. 228.
——— in pneumonia, i. 273.
——— affecting the gums, fails in malignant fever, i. 278.
——— prophylactic effects of, against yellow and remittent fever, i. 95, 165, 279, 280, 291, 292, 308, 339.
——— improperly taken, fatal, ii. 57.
Metastasis in pleurisy, ii. 51.
Methodist missionaries, abuses by, ii. 357, 367, 371, 372, 373, 374.

Midwifery, (cases of) i. 63, 71, 77, 94, 197, 237, 246, 273, 394; ii. 4, 59, 60.
Midwives, proposals for their instruction, i. 288.
Milk River bath, its ines, i. 387.
Milk River bath waters, efficacy of, in dysentery, ii. 87.
Misconduct ruins an acquaintance, i. 46.
Monks and friars, their conduct on our approach to Funchal, i. 9.
Monte Christo, i. 92.
Morant-point, Jamaica, i. 35.
Moravians, or united brethren, ii. 288, 365.
Mother Carey's chickens. an extraordinary bird, i. 35; ii. 94.
Mulattoes, females of colour, paramours of white men, i. 42.
Mungola negroes, i. 177.
M——, Mr, liver affection, &c. ii. 45.
Murder of a white man by his negroes, i. 50.
Murder of a negro man by his wife, how punishable, i. 187.
Music, its powers on Africans, ii. 282.
Musquetoes, in Jamaica, i. 37, 43.
Mutilation of limb, at one time lawful in Jamaica, i. 187.

N

Narrative in Jamaica, conclusion of, ii. 89.
—— of homeward passage, ii. 90.
Nature, her powers and operations deserve consideration, i. 75, 76.
Navel, in infants, treatment of, i. 130, 151, 198; ii. 5.
—— rupture of, secretly favoured by negroes, i. 131.
—— bled after birth, good effects of, ii. 60.
Neglect, fatal effect of, ii. 24.

Negro, a new, extraordinary conduct of in childbed, ii. 4.
———, bite of, i. 187.
——— female from Africa, singular anecdote of, i. 80.
——— women profess to cure diseases, i. 98.
——— women and children, management of, observations on, ii. 197.
——— habits predispose them to disease, i. 91, 127, 151, 184, 211, 258, 345; ii. 35.
——— children, their capacity, &c. ii. 372.
——— chops off his hand nearly, i. 204.
——— diseases different from whites, i. 248.
Negroes, i. 26.
———, a, remarks on the musqueto, i. 43, 342, 349.
———, treatment of, i. 48, 55, 134, 184, 191, 193, 313, 326, 338, 344, 368, 381.
———, in chronic diseases, neglected, i. 55, 58.
———, neglected diseases, unhappy consequences, i. 58.
———, imported from Africa, their impressions, i. 79, 80.
———, destructive superstition entertained by them, i. 93.
———, mode of management, i. 93, 192, 199, 327.
———, their religious ideas, i. 107, 328, 329, 330, 335.
———, their condition, i. 134, 184, 313, 338, 345, 370, 381.
———, change of usual food productive of disease, i. 137.
———, cold and wet injurious to, i. 148.
———, ingratitude of, i. 188, 363.
———, inconsistency, i. 192.
——— punishments, regulations for, i. 193.
———, their ferocious dispositions, i. 194, 204, 326, 394.
———, abhorrence at suicide, i. 220.
———, fevers in, i. 258.
———, antidote to drinking, i. 297.

Negroes, purchase and sale of, i. 314.
——— and whites, relative ties, i. 315.
———, marriage recommended, i. 329, 372.
———, should be instructed, i. 329, 331, 335, 368.
———, condition of in the West Indies, ii. 215.
———, appreciate comforts, i. 338.
——— artful in procuring poison, i. 378.
———, of free condition, disadvantages, i. 382.
———, observations on the practicablity of establishing Christianity among, ii. 273.
Nervous fever, i. 268, 289, 369.
——— in a new comer, i. 220, 228.
Nervous affection, singular instance of, ii. 6.
Neurosis, i. 381; ii. 2.
Nevesa, island of, i. 34.
Nevis, mission to, ii. 334.
New comer, cautions to, i. 38, 42, 108, 121, 124, 149, 169, 171, 207, 210, 213, 214, 215, 217, 224, 237, 240, 245, 255.
Nitric acid in lues venerea, i. 182.
North winds, i. 56, 60, 71, 117, 124, 126, 171, 210, 222, 297, 338; ii. 83.
Northern exposures unhealthy, i. 107, 210.
Nose, bleeding from, observations on, i. 227.
Nursing, importance of, i. 346.

O

Obi, influence of, i. 114, 140, 327.
October, seasons in, i. 90; ii. 81.
Old age, disease of, ii. 86.
Operations of surgery, thoughts on, i. 312.
Ophthalmia and opacity, i. 376, 397.

Opium, advantages of by enema, i. 218; ii. 29.
———, prejudicial, i. 234, 334.
Overseer, culpable conduct of, i. 373.
Overseers, treatment of negroes, i. 48, 55, 63, 65, 91, 120, 122, 134, 168, 183, 185, 188, 191, 193, 199, 224, 245, 249, 327, 328, 329, 350, 373.

P

Palma, island of, i. 17.
Palsy, i. 114, 166, 215; ii. 42.
——— of the tongue, recovered. i. 90, 207.
Paracentesis, in dropsy, i. 101, 154.
Passage to Jamaica, how to get from thence to Barbadoes, &c. i. 31.
——— from Jamaica to Britain, rate of, ii. 90.
Passion, violence of, fatal, ii. 52.
Patterson, Mr F. (his dexterity) i. 128.
Pea, fixed within the nose, extraordinary progress of, ii. 20.
Petion, a chief of St Domingo, i. 337.
Pilot, a black man, boarded the ship, i. 36.
Pitcairn, Robert, an old respectable Scotchman, i. 44.
Plantation practice, i. 53, 225.
——— (laborious) i. 60, 65, 98; ii. 9.
Pneumonia, peculiarities of pulse in, i. 58.
Pneumonic or pleuritic complaints, i. 54, 56, 60, 89, 94, 95, 99, 127, 146, 149, 155, 164, 197, 209, 248, 257, 273, 407; ii. 1, 12, 32, 50, 107.
Point Isabelica, i. 32.
Poisonous articles, cautions against, i. 353, 377; ii. 61.
Polygamy, ii. 131.
——— in negroes, i. 49.
Population, negro, promoted, i. 372.

Port-Henderson, as a healthy resort, i. 100, 104, 126, 202, 297; ii. 28, 49.
Porto Rico, i. 30.
Port-Royal, Jamaica, i. 35.
Portsmouth, unfavourable acount of, i. 2.
Portuguese sentinel, compliment paid to a British soldier, i. 9
——— regiment, opinion of, i. 9.
Practice, commencement of, considerations thereon, i. 51, 52.
——— in Spanish Town, i. 53; ii. 9.
——— change of its scene, considerations on, i. 250.
Practitioners, Medical, on plantations, i. 55, 220, 224, 238; ii. 8.
——— description of, sometimes known, i. 238.
——— going to Jamaica, advice, i. 252.
——— responsibility of, i. 296.
Pregnancy (weakness and irritability of stomach in), i. 295, 328, 350, 397, 408; ii. 56.
——— dropsy suspected in, event, ii. 72.
Pressing party board our ship, remarks on, ii. 91.
Press-gang, more oppressive than negro restrictions, ii. 92.
Proprietors, West India, humane intentions of, i. 64, 176, 191.
——— duties of, i. 111, 122, 153, 329, 373.
Provisions, scarcity of, i. 383.
Puerperal case, i. 305.
Puerperal case, fatal, i. 56, 405.
Pulmonic affection relieved, i. 103.
Pulse, peculiarities of, intermission, &c. i. 260, 262, 271, 370.
Punch drinking in Jamaica, ruinous effects of, i. 96, 211.
Punishments to be regulated, i. 193.
Purgatives in fever, i. 249.
Putrid sore throat, i. 60, 109, 132, 141, 208, 274, 334; ii. 21, 27, 28, 33, 35.

Q

Quackery, dangers from, i. 268.

R

Rain, heavy fall of, consequences, i. 303.
Rains, partial nature of in Jamaica, i. 186; ii. 34.
——— salubrity of, at certain seasons, i. 234, 238, 385.
Rebellion contemplated in St George's, i. 341.
Reception at Spanish Town, i. 44.
Rectors of parishes to superintend instruction to negroes, i. 330.
R———, Mr (complicated case), i. 268, 369, 376; ii. 42.
Relaxation of the system from long residence, i. 332.
Religion, in negroes and people of colour, i. 107, 328, 329.
——— observance of, by whites, i. 107, 328.
Religious instruction in Jamaica, conclusions concerning it, ii. 375.
Remittent fevers, i. 54, 111, 116, 118, 121, 124, 125, 126, 128, 142, 145, 157, 173, 188, 198, 200, 207, 212, 215, 218, 219, 222, 227, 231, 241, 245, 246, 260, 262, 264, 269, 271, 280, 284, 288, 300, 301, 308, 316, 320, 339, 348, 394, 399, 401; ii. 6, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, 28, 53, 58, 61, 63, 64, 67, 79, 80, 81, 87.
Rheumatism, acute, i. 56.
——— chronic, i. 387.
Rising early at sea, reasons for, i. 6.
R———, Mr, case of, connected with mercury in fever, i. 270, 276, 308.
Romish religion, opinion of, i. 12.
Ryde, a village in the isle of Wight, i. 2.

S

S——, Mr, arrived at Kingston, his friendship, i. 99.
Sabbath violated, remedy, i. 331.
Saturday night, i. 7.
Schirrhous mamma, excision of, i. 146.
———— of the testicle, excision of, i. 85.
Scotland Hills, Barbadoes, Red Legs, a people inhabiting them, i. 27.
Sea breeze, its refreshing and beneficial nature, i. 38, 71, 270, 369; ii. 13.
Sea sickness, prevalence and treatment of, i. 4, 6.
Sea voyage, cures intermittent, ii. 88.
Seamen, superstition of, ii. 96.
Seton in the neck, in an eye case, i. 59; in side, 103, 181, 324.
Shark followed the ship, i. 29.
Ships, run foul of each other, i. 33.
Signal for sailing made, accompanying circumstances, i. 4.
Slave ship, first impressions made on seeing one, i. 26.
—— trade, African, abolished, i. 371.
Small pox, i. 94, 109, 183; ii. 58.
———— in yawy patients, i. 92.
———— taken a second time, mortal, i. 149.
————, uncommon case of, i. 302.
————, consequences of neglect to inoculate, i. 306.
Soldiers, their condition at Spanish Town, i. 346.
———— wives, their lamentable state, i. 348.
Sore throat, inflammatory, i. 303; ii. 27, 35.
Sphacelus of the scrotum and perineum, i. 341.
Spanish Town, road to, i. 44; description of, 45.

Spanish Town, road to St Thomas in the Vale, its grandeur, &c. i. 46.
———————, superior care of negroes, i. 53, 324.
———————, its local circumstances, i. 254, 259.
———————, nature of practice, i. 255.
———————, its vicinity unhealthy, ii. 79, 80.
Spasmodic affection, singular case of, ii. 62.
St Domingo, &c. dangers on that coast, i. 31, 32, 34.
———————, dangers of its government to Jamaica, i. 335.
———————, the chiefs of that country, i. 337.
St Lucia, i. 27.
St Pierre, Martinique, i. 28.
St Thomas in the Vale, i. 48.
Stomach, irritability of, remedy, i. 84, 241.
———, spasmodic, affection of, i. 167, 219.
———, evil, (mal d'estomac), i. 93, 110, 139, 173, 182, 298, 357, 366, 375; ii. 27, 261.
Stone in the bladder, little known in Jamaica, i. 102.
Storm at sea, ii. 97.
——— destructive effects of, i. 122, 395; ii. 81.
Strangury (dysuria), i. 61.
Sugar-cane liquor, its wholsome tendency, i. 72.
Suicide, i. 219; attempt at, 229.
——— by negroes from Africa, i. 80, 178.
Sunday, attempts at impropriety on, repelled, i. 8.
———, prayers on, and remarks, i. 22.
———, its observance in Jamaica, i. 42, 108.
Surgery, operations in, i. 97.
———, practice of, in Jamaica, i. 147, 169.
Surinam, mission to, ii. 309, 370.

T

Tabes mesenterica, (cachexy), i. 87.
Taylor, Captain, a due tribute to, ii. 98, 101.
Teething, lancing the gums in, ii. 41, 65, 66.
Temperature in Jamaica, i. 85, 94, 149, 171, 173, 196, 210, 212; ii. 9, 50, 52, 57, 58, 63, 70, 71, 86.
Teneriffe or Madeira wines, recommended for estates, i. 96.
Thirst, remarks on, in the West Indies, i. 97.
——— indulged in warm climates, pernicious, i. 23.
Throat, aphthous affections of, i. 380.
———, inflammatory sore, fatal, ii. 57.
Tobacco, infusion of, effects of, i. 207.
———, smoking of, i. 37, 129, 268, 369.
Tobago, mission to, ii. 300.
Tortola, mission to, ii. 335.
Tortuda, island of, i. 32.
Trade winds, i. 31.
Tradesmen on estates, i. 51.
Trepan, operation of, i. 113, 183.
Tropical bird seen, i. 24.
——— diseases, experience necessary in, i. 401.
Turtle, floating asleep, i. 21.
Tympanites, i. 402.
Typhus fever, i. 352, 396, 406; ii. 21, 22, 23, 57, 67, 72.

U

Ulcers, danger of healing old, ii. 34, 35.
——— in negroes, i. 56; vegetable dressings, unctuous, bad, 57, 77, 83, 106, 117.
———, a decoction useful for, i. 58.
Umbilicus, treatment of, in infants, i. 130.

United brethren, i. 288, 370.
Urinary obstruction, i. 370; ii. 4, 66, 67.
Uva ursi, beneficial, ii. 4.

V

Vaccination, i. 213; ii. 41, 71.
——— observations on, ii. 165.
Vagina, pendulous tumour, excision of, i. 168.
Vangla (or Wangla), i. 171, 178.
Vegetation, its vigour or decay, influence on health, i. 92, 106, 123, 222, 226, 259, 285, 292, 338; ii. 21, 49, 56, 63.
——— its decay at certain times, i. 54, 222.
Venerea, lues, neglect of, consequences, i. 63, 144, 182, 229, 312, 387.
Vincent's, St, mission to, ii. 329, 371.
Vinegar and water, sponging with, in fever, i. 237; ii. 21.
Visit at sea, i. 23; ii. 95.
Visit to a physician on arrival at Kingston, i. 39.
Vomica in the lungs, sudden death from, i. 101.
Vomiting, how excited, i. 211.
Vulture (or carrion crow), peculiarities of, i. 395.

W

War, how conducted in Africa, ii. 275.
Warm latitudes, care of health in, i. 22.
Water, tepid, removes irritability at stomach, ii. 24.
Watland island, ii. 93.
Weather, influence of, on fever, i. 301.
———, stormy, at sea, ii. 96.
West Indies, heat of, feelings on my arrival, i. 27.
White inhabitants, promiscuous intercourse of negroes and colour, i. 49.

White inhabitants, not exemplarly in religion to negroes, i. 328.

——————— reasons for loss of health, i. 182.

Whites use no precautions against night attacks, i. 342.

Widows in Jamaica, i. 306.

Williamsfield, liberal policy of proprietor and the attorneys of Lord Harewood, i. 76.

Williamson, Adam, a rebellious negro, i. 362.

Woman, negro, never menstruated, i. 113.

Woman, a sterile, suckled a child, i. 113.

Wormy complaints, i. 52, 54; 78, 81, 84, 85, 146, 147, 174, 235, 258, 262, 263, 264, 299, 304, 307, 379, 400, 401; ii. 9, 24, 26, 72, 79.

Wound in the heel by glass, i. 313.

Y

Yaws, i. 88, 91, 92; ii. 85, 141.

——, dissertation on, ii. 141.

Yellow fever, i. 168, 226, 276, 290, 320, 387, 405; ii. 17, 25, 27, 64, 66.

———————, case of, in a brown man, ii. 71.

Young men sent to Jamaica, description of, i. 153.

Z

Zacheo, isle of, i. 30.

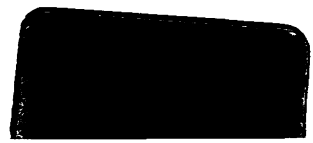
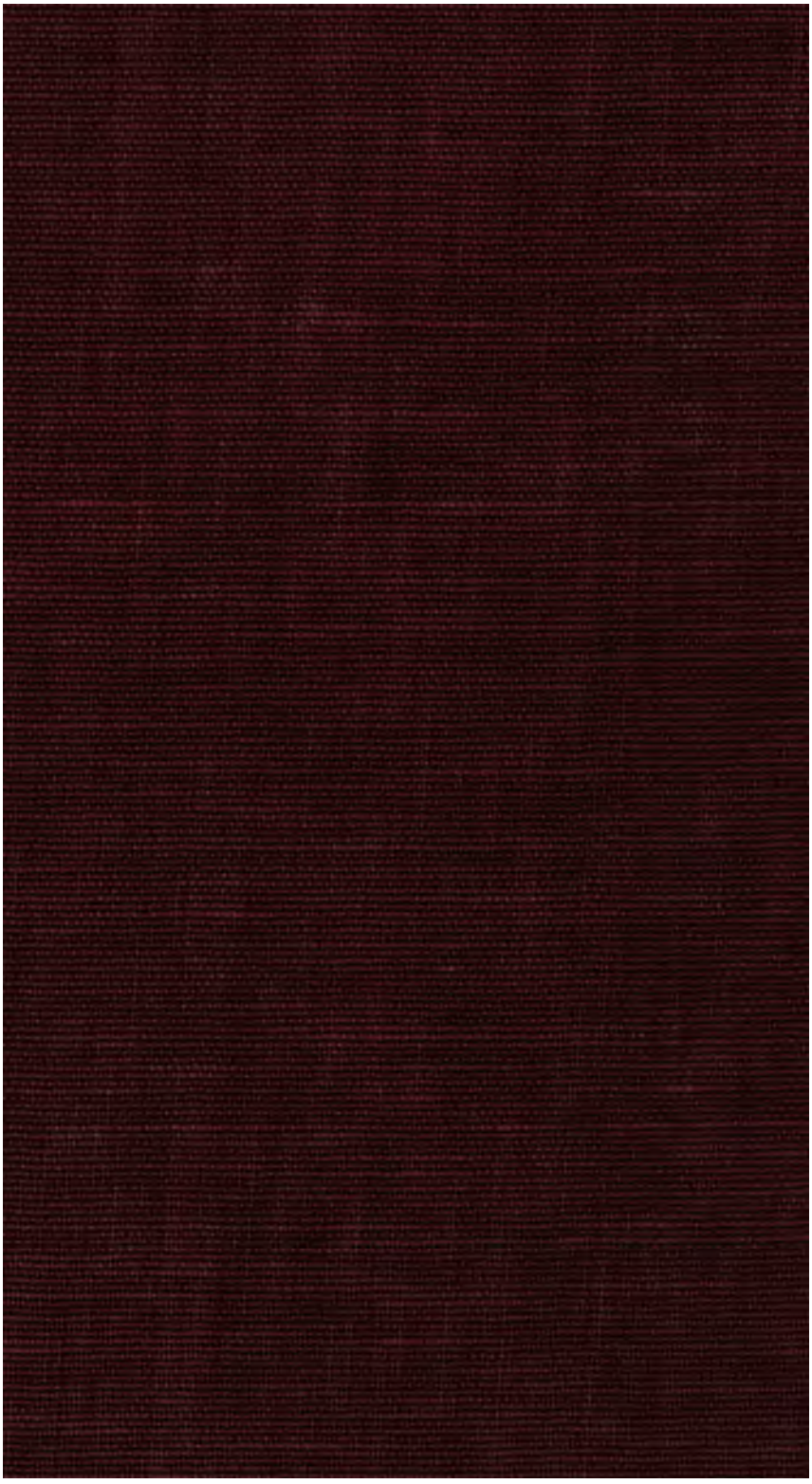
FINIS.

Alex. Smellie, Printer to the University.

ERRATA IN VOL. I.

Page 170, l. 7, *for* julap, *read* jalap.
230, l. 17, *for* julap, *read* jalap.
262, l. 11 and 13, *for* julap, *read* jalap.
264, l. 3, *for* julap, *read* jalap.
276, l. 25 and 26, *for* julap, *read* jalap.
280, l. 6, *for* julap, *read* jalap.
298, l. 21, *for* julap, *read* jalap.
386, l. 15, *for* palliative, *read* palliate.
Throughout the work, *for* mal de estomac, *read* mal d'estomac.

ERRATA IN VOL. II.

Page 43, l. 4, *for* arms and legs, *read* arm and leg.
147, l. 18, *for* dur- *read* during.
180, l. 17, *for* house, *read* horse.

3 2044 011 328 945